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Crown post office staff in warning of walkout

STAFF at Crown post offices – including Walsall and Willenhall – are due to stage a strike tomorrow afternoon (Friday) in a row over jobs, pay and closures.

Members of the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) will walk out for half a day from 2.30pm, following a strike last month.

The union is campaigning against plans to close or franchise dozens of Crown post offices, saving more

post offices, saying more than 800 jobs will be hit.

List

Walsall, Willenhall and Cannock Crown post offices are on a list of more than 370 due to be hit by strike action. The CWU said more details of the strike action

details of the strike action and picket lines would be released nearer the day and it is not yet clear how many members will take part.

It was announced earlier this year that Willenhall post office has been earmarked for a move to a shop, prompting a campaign to save it. Bosses are seeking retail partners in a bid to cut losses of £40 million a year. They say branches will remain open if these cannot be found.

CWU deputy general sec-

be tound.

CWU deputy general secretary Dave Ward said:
"Flawed plans to close or franchise 76 offices are meeting robust opposition in communities across the country."

Case review after death

A SON charged with grievous bodily harm of his elderly mother is facing a fresh investigation after she died of her injuries.

died of her injuries.

Ian Henderson was arrested after his 86-yearold mother Lilian was found with head injuries at her home last month. She has since died in hospital.

Police spokesman Pete

since died in hospital.
Police spokesman Pete
Edney said: "The Crown
Prosecution Service is
reviewing the case."
Henderson, 61, who lived
with his mother in Stephenson Avenue, Beechdale, was
last month remanded in
custody to appear before
Wolverhampton Crown
Court on June 13.

UNDREDS MORE DMES PROPOSED



The initial investment is part of a larger plan to provide more rental housing in the borough. This will include a further £20m being spent between 2014 and 2015 as they complete 200 extra homes at a further seven sites.

Mark Tranter, Head of Development said: "This is one of the first major social housing schemes in Walsall for a number of years.

Events for St

number of years.

"We have planned these developments in response to local housing needs."We are very excited about the building schemes and we think we have made a positive commitment to the area."

Work has already begun on the £7m Barracks Lane site, opposite Blakenall Village Centre, that will see 73 homes built to strict Government guidelines for modern homes, similar to those completed recently in Wells

similar to those Place, Bloxwich. se completed recently in Wells

Projects

This will be followed by smaller projects in Curtin Drive in Darlaston, Kempthorne Gardens in Bloxwich and Deakin Avenue in Brownhills.

Brownhills.

The group hope to end the year by beginning work on their largest housing site in the scheme at Harrowby Road.

This site will include both homes for rent and for sale. There are plans, due to be submitted next month, for 72 rented homes and 150 private.

mitted next month, for 72 rented homes and 159 private.
Whg have also started improving some of the borough's older housing stock, including several blocks of flats which are being brought up to date with work to improve energy efficiency.
"We have had a really positive response from tenants that we have helped," said Mr Tranter. "Our strategy as a non-profit housing company has always been a balance between managing our other properties and growth."

growth. Local firms will be used at half of the sites

Anson also be doing his bit to represent the borough by attending special events across the region.

On Saturday he will attend Dudley's St George's Day festivities followed by a civic luncheon in Stafford, both as the civic representative of Walsall. On Sunday he will present awards at a community thanksgiving event at the Methodist Community Hall in Ablewell Street, Walsall.

The Stan Ball Centre in Abbots Street, Bloxwich, will be getting patriotic with sing-alongs and karaoke on Tuesday from 11 am. On that evening Walsall College, in Littleton Street West, will host a special St George's set dinner at its restaurant Jerome's for £19.95 from 7pm.

The annual St George's Day Parade being held in West Bromwich on Sunday is anticipated to attract around 20,000. and the group have established apprentice-ship programmes so that future builders will be trained as part of the construction

Bee ready for buzzy times



Councillor Doug James at Addenbrooke Allotments, one of the possible hive locations ALLOTMENT keepers are buzzing with having bees on site can provide environmen-ALLOTMENT keepers are buzzing with excitement as the council offers consulta-tion on an innovative bee keeping scheme. Gardeners at Walsall's 37 allotment sites are being asked for their opinion on plans to introduce bo

are being asked for their opinion on plans to introduce bee hives.

Working with partners including the British Bee Keeping Association, Walsall Council has looked into the ways they can support bee-keeping at borough allotments. A study at Cartridge Lane Allotments in Rushall has already provided evidence that

tal benefits, such as improved crop yields. Councillor Doug James is behind the plan and has been the owner of an allotment plot for a number of years. He said nationally there were concerns about a drastic decline

there were concerns about a drastic decline in the bee population and concern about the impact on the pollination of plants. "With all the gloom and despondency around as the result of an extended winter it is a buzz to have such a positive take off for a 'Bee Active' campaign," he said.

Man badiv injured in suspected 'ambush'

A TAKEAWAY delivery man

A TAKEAWAY delivery man was left critically injured on Monday after being brutally beaten up in a suspected ambush in Walsall.

The 28-year-old victim and a colleague were set upon by an armed gang thought to have been wielding a baseball bat.

The three thugs struck in a quiet cul-de-sac while the delivery man – believed to work for a Chinese outlet – was delivering food in the early hours of Saturday.

Head

Head

He and his colleague were attacked as they got out of their vehicle in Madison Avenue, Alumwell, at 12.20am.

One was not badly hurt but the other received a serious head injury.

The attackers fled

The attackers fled through a walkway to Ripon Road where a getaway car was parked.

It is understood that there was no attempt to steal from the two men.

Ambulance crews alerted police after being called to the scene and paramedics treated the badly injured man before he was taken to hospital. The other man was discharged from hospital after treatment.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Gorway hosts Paralympians

GREAT Britain's women's wheelchair basketball team will take on London 2012 Paralympic bronze medallists The Netherlands at the University of Wolverhampton Sports Centre in Walsall, starting this evening, Thursday, from 6.30pm.

Thursday, from 6.30pm.

The 'Head to Head' series will see GB take on the Dutch five times at Gorway Road, with morning and evening matches on Friday and Saturday, and all games are free to spectators.

The Standard Life GB Women will be looking to avenge their London 2012 defeat by The Netherlands, 62-35.

■ Full story - See Page 44

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£20m plans - Mark Tranter

George's Day

FLAGS will be flying and people will be patriotically celebrating in Walsall as the borough marks St George's day.

A week of events in celebration of England's patron saint and the best of English will begin tomorrow (Friday) as The Staffordshire Brass Band puts on a performance of English tunes at the Forest Arts Centre in Hawbush Lane, Leamore from 7.30pm. Tickets will be available on the night for £5

Mayor of Walsall Councillor Dennis Anson also be doing his bit to represent the borough by attending special events across the region.

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Mother falsely claimed £25k in benefits

A MOTHER-OF-TWO who falsely claimed more than £25,000 in benefits, after stating she was a single parent while she was actually living with her partner, has avoided an

mmediate jail term. Laeticia Belle from Walsall received council and housing benefit, along with income support, over more than three years. She had failed to disclose Imoke

Lubaki was residing with her in

Moorside Gardens, a joint investiga-tion by Walsall Council and the Department for Work and Pensions

Admitted

He was working full time at a spermarket and Walsall Magissupermarket and Walsall Magistrates Court was told evidence linked him to Belle's address. This included him paying for Sky TV while vehicle insurers, credit agree-

ments and employers were also given that street name. The 24-year-old admitted two counts of failing to notify a change of circumstances affecting entitle-

The magistrates sentenced her to eight weeks imprisonment, sus-pended by a year, and 150 hours of unpaid work. She was also ordered to pay £390

Mrs Kerry Munro, prosecuting, said that Belle, formerly known as Mabika Lusiasia, had claimed housing and council benefit based on being a lone parent since Novem ber 2008.

Belle received an overpayment of £25,188.49 between November 2008 and March 2012. This related to £13,429.78 in housing benefits, £2,327.26 in council tax and £9,431.45 in income support.

Teen burglars left of destruction

piping and a boiler from a house in Walsall, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage, a court heard.

The teenagers were found hiding in a cupboard by police as gallons of water cascaded from the hacked pipes across newly installed floors.

Shane Jones, aged 18, and a 16-year-old youth, had first

offence

is denied

Power cut hits

HUNDREDS of homes, shops, traffic lights and a cinema in Walsall were hit by an hour-long power cut on Wednesday of last week. Films at the Showcase Cinema near Junction 10 were cut short by the failure, which happened just after 1pm and was due to an underground cable fault.

checked out the property in Regent Street, Willenhall, to ensure no-one was at home, Walsall magistrates heard. They returned with a screwdriver and a metal bar and forced their way into the Cannabis

house, which was in the process of being renovated, said Miss Val Hart, prose-

when police arrived, they found a wheelie bin outside containing a boiler and copper piping.

Inside the house, water

from the damaged pipes was several inches deep, affect-ing the laminated floor, which cracked when officers walked on it, the court heard.

Arrested

A MAN has denied producing more than 200 cannabis plants in Walsall with a street value of almost £100,000.

Ha Hoang is accused of producing 213 plants from a property in Darley Way. Streetly, on or before November 27 last year.

The 40 year-old, of no The intruders were arrested and found to have a arrested and found to have a key to the property on them. An initial cost for the damage was estimated at £3,000 but the eventual bill is expected to be far higher, said Miss Hart.

The bath and sink had also been wrenched away from the wall and the stopcock had been pulled out.

Jones, of Thorne Road, Willenhall, and the 16-year-old, who cannot be named November 27 last year.

The 40 year-old, of no fixed address, denied the offence when he appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court.

He was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 2.

The

whilenall, and the 16-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted burglary.

Mr Sarbjit Lalli, defend-ing Jones, said his client had

not been in trouble before. Jones will be sentenced at

Jones will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 30. The youth will be sen-tenced by magistrates tomorrow (Friday).

Sikhs celebrate in streets



Seven thousand members of the Sikh community in Walsall took to the streets of Caldmore in a colourful parade for the annual Vaisakhi celebrations

Caldmore in a colourful parade for THOUSANDS of worshippers transformed Walsall streets into a sea of colour for annual Vaisakhi celebrations.

A parade was held in Caldmore to mark one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar on Sunday.

The celebrations mark the start of the Sikh New Year and commemorate 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith. Up to 7,000 people joined in festivities in Caldmore, in Walsall.

Celebrations set off from Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, in West Bromwich Street, Caldmore, as a colourfully-decorated float led the way.

The procession, known as Nagar Kirtan, began at around 11am and rolling road closures were put in place as it travelled along West Bromwich Street, Caldmore Green, Wednesbury Road and on to The Broadway.

General Secretary of the Caldmore Guru Nanak Gurdwara Mr Ajmail Singh said: "We were very very pleased with the turnout of the congregation." "There were also a lot of volunteers who were absolutely tremendous and put in a lot of hord work.

of hard work.

"It was a real community day and everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

Holy

The festivities included the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the holy scriptures, being

Thousands followed the float and free refreshments were handed out along the

route.

Mr Singh added: "It was a wonderful day for us and a day of great pride. It is always a day people look forward to."

Horse was found in burger at food bar

A SANDWICH shop in Willenhall was caught up in the horse meat scandal when it was revealed last week that traces of horse DNA had been found in a beefburger. The beefburger was bought from The Pig Out sndwich bar in Stafford Street, the Food Standards Agency said.

Agency said.

Joanne Pardoe, who runs the shop, said it had related to one box of 48 burgers, which had been received from a supplier.

All-clear

All-clear

"It was just the burgers, they sent some away for testing and I informed the suppliers straight away," she said. "I didn't know there was any horsemeat, you don't expect it.

"I took the burgers off the menu. I have had the all-clear off my supplier now and they have had all their products tested"

She added: "I will probably start selling them again

she added: I will proba-bly start selling them again now they have been given the all-clear as everyone has been asking about them."

Diesel thief struck five times in less than a week

A THIEF who stole more than £450 worth of diesel in five thefts from petrol sta-tions in Walsall in less than a week has been given a sus-pended jail term. Michael Harrison admit-

ted five counts of making off without payment between March 30 and April 4 this

year.
The 25-year-old was sentenced to eight weeks in prison, suspended for a year, along with 12 months' supervision.He was told to pay \$462.77 compensation, £85 costs and an £80 victim surcharge.

surcharge.
Walsall Magistrates Court heard he was caught using a Red Ford Transit for taking diesel without paying from Texaco in Bloxwich Road, Shell at Northgate, Texaco in Bloxwich Road, Shell at Northgate, Aldridge, Murco in Tintern Crescent, Bloxwich; Redhouse filling station, Middlemore Lane, Aldridge; and from Tesco in Wisemore, Walsall.
Harrison, of Summer Lane, Pelsall, was already on a community order at the time of the offences.

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Dress in onesie to attempt a record

A THEME park is looking to become a record-breaker this weekend with its very own pyjama party with a modern twist.

modern twist.

Drayton Manor plans to set a new world record for the most number of people wearing 'onesies' gathered in any one place.

As part of Saturday's record bid, the park will allow anyone sporting a blue, red or yellow all-in-one outfit to pay £5 entry, with £10 admission for those wearing a onesie of a different colour.

ent colour.

A minimum of 623 participants will be needed for the high noon record bid.

Rides

This is the first year that Drayton Manor has attempted the oneside record.

Onesie wearers will then be able to spend the rest of the day in the park enjoying all the rides and attractions.

Managing director Colin

Managing director Colin Bryan said: "Onesie fever has become part of the latest fashion trend.

fashion trend.

"We are looking to be a part of this latest craze by setting a new world record for most onesie wearers at the park."

For more details of this onesie in a lifetime opportunity, or to register your attendance visit www.facebook.com/drayton manorpark

Long term plans to boost rail

IMPROVING rail links to boost the transport network through Walsall remains an aim over the coming years, council chiefs say.

There are long-term plans to re-instate the Aldridge and Stourbridge line, while the multi-million electrification of the Rugeley to Birmingham route is to be carried out.

ingham route is to be carried out.

It emerged recently that more than £2m needs to be ploughed into highway and pedestrian improvements if plans forge ahead to close a level crossing in Bloxwich.

The plans to block the crossing at Reeves Street have been put forward as

have been put forward as part of the electrification of the Walsall to Cannock line.

Consultants to make daily rounds at hospital

CONSULTANTS' ward rounds are to be increased to increase to seven days a week as part of attempts to reduce mortality rates at Walsall Manor Hospital.

They were increased to six days last year

It is part of efforts by health chiefs to continue reducing death rates,including an £800,000 investment in nursing staff – the equivalent of 41 extra posts – over the past

They were increased to six gays last year following an internal review of death rates by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

The intention is to provide a full sevenday consultant presence because of increased death rates at weekends, a report increased death rates at well at well and the r showing lower than expected mortality in the most recent 12 months, having seen

higher than expected rates and a continuous increase from 2009-10 to 2011-12.

The report revealed concerns over the availability of beds and services in palliative care, and the amount of time patients spend

care, and the amount of time patterns open-in hospital. Hospital chief executive Richard Kirby said: "Ensuring our hospital mortality rates are as low as possible is central to delivering our promise to our patients that they will be in safe hands in our care."

He added: "We are pleased that, as a result of our actions, our hospital mortality rates have improved and have now been better than expected for a hospital of our size for 10 months in a row.

Councillor Marco Longhi, the chairman of the health scrutiny panel which commis-sioned the investigation, said: "Members of the scrutiny panel have repeatedly sought assurances from health colleagues

Industrial route gets pothole repair cash

A MAJOR industrial thoroughfare in Aldridge is to be improved following a Government cash windfall, after complaints that vehicles are being damaged by potholes.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds is to be spent on resurfacing Middlemore Lane West, which is a base for up to 60 businesses. It comes after a funding boost of more than £500,000 from the Department for Transport during the next two years. Over £350,000 has been allocated in this financial year and will go towards improving one of the borough's busiest commercial corridors.

Middle

Ray Rowan is managing director of the property lettings business Walkfern Ltd which caters for a dozen businesses from a building in Middlemore Lane West. He said long standing complaints have been made about the poor condition of the road despite some repairs being made.

Mr Rowan said: "The businesses are desperate for this. There are people that have to drive down the middle of the road to avoid the holes.
"I have been steadily on to the council and several people in our building have

"I have been steadily on to the council and several people in our building have been calling in asking when it is going to be repaired.

"We are talking about one of the major commercial routes. If it isn't the worst road in Aldridge, it has got to be seriously close."

He explained how a scooter business has difficulties taking machines onto the road due to fears of damage to their machines.

Roads have been badly hit by the winter freeze.

Transport chief Councillor Tom Ansell said: "The

lor Tom Ansell said: "The

by Craig Hughes

Department for Transport has allocated £540,000 to Walsall Council for highway maintenance, which will be split across the next two years.

spin across the flext two years.

"There will be £352,000 for the financial year 2013-14 and £184,000 for 2014-15. This extra funding is not only a welcome boost to repair roads and footpaths that have been left decimated by the recent snow and icy conditions, but in the longer term encourage economic growth and support local communities.

"Middlemore Lane West has been identified in the current three-year highway maintenance programme as a high priority and we

a high priority and we propose to allocate the propose to allocate the £352,000 towards the cost of

£352,000 towards the cost of its resurfacing, with the rest coming from existing highway maintenance budgets," he added. More than £22 million has been ploughed into highways improvements in Walsall over the last six years, say council chiefs.

The money was spent on repairs and resurfacing schemes between 2007 and 2013, according to transport bosses.

2013, according to transport bosses.

The majority was invested in Bentley and Darlaston North, where £2.4m was allocated, while £2.1m was pumped into the network in Palfrey. The lowest amounts were in the Bloxwich East ward, where £282,000 was set aside, and Bloxwich West where £370,000 was spent.



Chief instructor Gregory Gavin demonstrates on martial arts student Paul Smith

Hands on martial arts skills at gathering

MARTIAL arts instructors and students descended on Walsall for a weekend honing their skills and learning new techniques. The three-day Martial Arts

Extravaganza was held at the County Hotel in Birmingham Road, and saw more than 30 stu-dents and nine instructors share

dents and nine instructors share styles and information.

The event, which takes place every April and November, was organised by husband and wife Adam and Claire Illidge.

Mrs Illidge, 29, of Rugeley, said: "It's been great, a really big success. It's always a very popular event."

Classes

Mr Illidge, 38, specialises in Ju Jitsu and runs Jissen Ryu Ju Jitsu, holding classes in Cannock, Rugeley and Stafford. The couple run the Traditional and Modern Martial Arts Asso-ciation, which organises the event.

Instructors and students, who ranged from eight-years-old to 60, travelled from as far afield as Inverness and Norwick Norwich.

Norwich.

On Saturday and Sunday, workshops and seminars were held for people to share ideas and to improve techniques. A meal and presentation was held.

Ju Jitsu, wing chun, kapap and kempo karate were among the martial art styles on show.

Entrepreneurs to be focus of event

De focus of event YOUNG entrepreneurs are invited to an enter-prise event at Walsall College on Monday. One person taking part in the Talent Navigator Enterprise event will win 12 months' free member-ship to the Talent Naviga-tor Enterprise Hub, onening this summer. The snip to the Talent Naviga-tor Enterprise Hub, opening this summer. The hub is to encourage and support young entrepre-neurial businesses in and around Walsall.

around Walsall.

The event will be held at
Jerome's Restaurant at
the Wisemore Campus
from 11.45am to 2pm. Free
places can be booked at
http://talentnavigator.eve
ntbrite.co.uk

Spring meeting after family ride

after family ride
CYCLISTS' Touring Club
Walsall and family cycling
group will set off an 12mile family ride on Satumile family ride on Satuday from the South Shore
Cafe at Chasewater
Country Park A5 entrance
at 9.30am. It will include a
breakfast or coffee stop.
The ride will be followed
at noon by the spring
meeting at the Innovation
Centre Cafe.
Call Dave on 07866
028154 for further details.

Red route fines

Red route fines rake in the cash

TENS of thousands of pounds in fines have been raked in by Sandwell and Walsall councils from motorists flouting red route restrictions. Between April 1, 2012, and Between April 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013, the two authorities issued a total of 1,179 fines to drivers who parked or stopped on double red lines. Walsall Council issued 628 penalty charge notices.

Rural Staffs walk for the ramblers

for the ramblers
THE Walsall Group of the
Ramblers will be heading
to Barlaston, near Stone,
for a seven mile circular
walk on Sunday. Contact
the walk leaders for
further details on 01922
451302.
More information on the
Walsall group is available
at website www.walsall
ramblers.co.uk

Detective strikes back at Bookmark

THRILLS and giggles can be enjoyed when the Don't Go Into The Cellar theatre Go Into The Cellar theatre company return to Walsall for their latest production, Sexton Blake Strikes Back! It is being staged at Book-mark Bloxwich on Satur-day at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8, £6 concessions. Call the library on 01922 655900



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THE First World War kicked off in Bosnia. Argentina invaded the Falklands. North Korea is threatening to attack Guam. It is a worrying theme of history that

at an open door. Rupert Murdoch hinted only a few weeks ago that he was considering the future of the tabloid's daily diet of flesh. If mighty Murdoch bows to the will of the Girl Guides it will win him a little credit in these dodgy, post-Leveson times.

TALKING of which, hasn't it all gone very quiet on the proposed Royal Charter to regulate the Press? We seem to have reached the stage where most politicians support it but most of Fleet Street seems unwilling to sign up to it. Maybe if we gre all year, very quiet it'll no away.

it but most of Fleet Street seems unwilling to sign up to it. Maybe if we are all very, very quiet, it'll go away.

I DID not much care for Maggie Thatcher or some of the changes she wrought. But I find it odd that so many people who were barely out of their prams when she was in power have such violent opinions about her. If you can't remember the 1970s, you are entitled to your opinion but your rage is purely bogus.

SO FAREWELL, Paris Brown, the 17-year-old "youth police and crime commissioner" (no, I don't remember voting for them either). She has resigned after messages.

voting for them either). She has resigned after messages she posted on Twitter were denounced as racist and homophobic. Part of me feels sorry for her. We all do stupid things as kids and it was a lot easier in a pre-Twitter age to be forgiven and to move on. These days, one daft,

age to be longiven and to move on. Intese days, one dail, drunken remark can haunt you for ever.

THEY say daylight is the best disinfectant. Press exposure of compensation claims made by thousands of police officers reveals that something is sands of police officers reveals that sometining rotten in the system and must be cleansed. We now know that about 2,000 officers a year are being awarded damages, often for slipping, tripping or falling on private property while responding to 999 calls. And in each of those 2,000 cases, we are seri-

calls. And in each of those 2,000 cases, we are seriously supposed to believe it was all somebody else's fault. Do you buy that? Me neither.

ANYWAY, Home Secretary Theresa May has ordered a review of police compensation and not before time. But she will have a hell of a job dismantling this well-established little arrangement which seems to benefit just about everyone except the person who dials 999. Officers are encouraged to claim by the Police Federation which, like all trade unions like to affer it perspanse occasional. like all trade unions, likes to offer its members occasional sweeteners. No win/no fee lawyers obviously benefit from the business coming their way. The insurance industry is happy to settle these cases, rather than fight them in court, because it knows it can recover the money by in court, because it knows it can recover the money by hiking premiums. And the poor customer is stuck with his insurer because once he's claimed on his policy, no other company will touch him. It seems plain wicked that people who are the victims of crime should find themselves sued by officers coming to their aid. But just because something is wicked, that doesn't make it illegal. As any cop will tell you.

THIS gem is from the Daily Telegraph obituaries page this week: "William Moody: Qualified funeral director and embalmer who made a career change to enthral wrestling fans as Paul Bearer." A classic of the

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Meat theft leads to prison sentence Chicken

worth of meat from a supermarket to raise drug money, after he failed to get his methadone prescription on time, has been jailed by magistrates.

Ricky Hamilton had gone into the Co-op store in Great Wyrley and was seen by staff taking the meat and trying to hide it under his jacket. He left without payings, staff gave chase and saw Hamilton throw the

into a car and getting away.
Cannock magistrates heard how staff managed to take down the registration number, which was traced to Hamilton's mother's address. He

to Hamilton's mother's aduless. He was later arrested.

Mr John Peel, prosecuting, said some of the meat was able to be resold, however the shop was unable to sell £20.24 worth.

pended sentence, issued for a similar offence, being activated.

He added Hamilton had been too

The 29-year-old of Providence
Lane, Walsall, admitted the charge of theft along with breach of a 12-month suspended sentence passed in January this year.

In mitigation, Mr Ian Henry said he told Hamilton he was "foolish and idiotic" as it would mean a suspended sentence, issued for a similar to rune each of the magnistrates Mr John Britton activated the six-week prison sentence. He added a further commended sentence is sentence. He added a further commended sentence is sentence. crime, to run consecutively, meaning Hamilton will serve a total of 10 weeks in jail.

Gas mains work is to cause disruption

MORE than 17 miles of gas mains are to be laid by National Grid in residential areas across Walsall.

It is set to cause months of disruptions for motorists, council bosses have announced. The work will be carried out in Rushall, Bloxwich and Darlaston.

Over the next 12 months the electricity and gas company will be renewing more than 200 miles of gas mains across the whole of the West Midlands, costing £60 million.

The pipes being laid in Walsall will serve hundreds of homes, businesses, shops and offices.

Metal gas mains will be replaced by more modern plactic pipes.

plastic pipes

Promise

Stephen Murray, contract Stephen Mitray, contrast, manager at National Grid, said: "People across Walsall enjoy a safe and reliable gas supply and our job is to make sure it stays that way.
"This year we'll have more of a focus on residential contract."

tial areas. We promise we'll let people know when we're about to start work and we'll get the job done as quickly and as tidily as possible.

by Laura Blyth

"We'll do our best to keep traffic flowing and to make sure streets and driveways remain accessible," he

But National Grid spokes-oman Jane Taylor added at there could be some dis-

ruption. She said: "The majority of She said: "The majority of the works are taking place in residential areas rather than on main roads. If absolutely necessary we will use temporary lights. "Where we can keep roads open then we will do."
Once in the ground, the pipes will last at least 80 years and will need little or no maintenance.

no maintenance. National Grid is under-National Grid is under-taking a £22 billion pro-gramme of investment in the company's energy net-works in the UK and America over the next five

New lights save money and the environment

THE use of new street lights in Walsall is helping to reduce borough's carbon footprint, says the town

ment boss.

New LED lights have been installed around Bloxwich as

part of an 'invest to save' project.

Environment chief councillor Tom Ansell insisted it was not just a money-saving exercise but also reduced energy

not just a money-saving exercise but also reduced energy bills.

He added that despite some initial complaints over the change in the type of lights, a survey showed the majority of residents were happy with them.

More than 590 old-style sodium orange lights in Bloxwich were replaced by the council's partners Amey last March. A £250,000 scheme to replace lights in Leamore is also

underway now.

Saddlers stars launch play area



Friendship Care and Housing chairman Ernie Hendricks, front, with Beechdale Community Housing chairman Gillian Fellows and Walsall Foot ball Club's Dean Holden, Febian Brandy, and Andy Taylor

WALSALL football stars were at the official opening of a new play area in Lister Close, Beechdale.

Beechdale.

A games area, spider climbing frame, walking track and swings were developed by Beechdale Community Housing and a celebration was held last week with families taking part in a football tournament.

The free event featuring Saddlers heroes was supported by Beechdale Community Housing, North Walsall area partnership, West Midlands Police and Groundwork.

Nick Woods, neighbourhood team leader at Beechdale Community Housing said: "A play area on the estate has been a priority

play area on the estate has been a priority for some time.

"Children have been speaking to us every day asking us when the new park opens, they cannot wait to use all the equipment especially the new multi-use games area."

Previous play equipment was removed after vandalism.

Planners say the new equipment is more robust

shelter is looking

OWNER of a sanctuary in Walsall which rehouses chickens and other animals

chickens and other animals says he is searching for a new place for his centre. Stephen Sankey said he had spent the past eight years looking for a new base but had no luck. He hopes to secure a site where under-privileged children can go to get up close with the animals. Mr Sankey cares for chickens and other animals which have been abandoned. He does it on a voluntary basis. He is currently running the sanctuary from the back garden of his home in Well Lane, in Blakenall.

Defended

The father-of-five defended his sanctuary and said it was in a good condition and used by the RSPCA. He said he had all the necessary certificates to keep chickens and other animals and claims that, despite visits from environmental health, no enforcement action has ever been taken. A report produced

A report produced recently by Walsall Council revealed a visit to the garden had found it was tidier and the number of chickens had been reduced.
"I want to find land where

we can live and set up the sanctuary for kids to come and visit and use," said Mr Sankey.

and visit and use," said Mr Sankey.
"I do a lot of work all year round to try and help the community and to look after these animals."
Mr Sankey, who runs the sanctuary from his garden with his son Jason, was recently told by Walsall Council to reduce the number of chickens he takes in to just 50. At one point, he in to just 50. At one point, he had up to 250 chickens in his

had up to 250 chickens in his garden.

Neighbours have com-plained about the smell
Anyone who can help his search, provide funding or donations of food or building materials is asked to call Mr Sankey on 07742 913184.

Grant to grow their own vea

GARDENERS in Aldridge are growing their own vegetables thanks to a donation. Residents are creating vegetable patches in support of the Aldridge in Bloom campaign. People a the Old Rectory Gardens housing scheme planted seeds and herbs donated by the Royal Horticultural Society.







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NEWS

It's better latte than never at new cafe

BOSSES of a new Costa Coffee shop have said they are "delighted" to be opening another cafe in Walsall town centre.

Walsall town centre.

The coffee giant has invested £200,000 transforming a former card shop in the Saddlers Shopping Centre, creating five jobsmore than five years it was first suggested.

The new Costa store, along with its existing branch at the New Art Gallery, is operated by West Midlands-based Central Coffee Limited. Husband

Midlands-based Central Coffee Limited. Husband and wife team Nigel and Bernie Foster run it and now have more than 100 people working in 10 stores.

Mrs Foster said: "We are delighted to be opening in the Saddlers Centre. The people of Walsall have been wonderful customers and are discerning coffee drinkers.

are discerning coffee drinkers.

"They have consistently voted our store in the New Art Gallery the friendliest in our group and one of the top stores within Costa. This has given us the confidence to open our second Walsall store in the busy Saddlers Centre."

Shopping centre bosses were delighted to welcome such a big name to the centre. Angela Henderson, centre manager, said: "This let is not only good news for the centre but good news for the centre but good news for the town

The coffee company originally looked to move to the Saddlers Centre in 2007.

Road closure is put on hold

THE overnight closure of a busy Walsall route, as part of a £400,000 congestion-busting scheme, has been put on hold.

busting scheme, has been put on hold.

Bescot Road was to shut as part of the upgrading traffic signals and improving pedestrian facilities around junction nine of the M6. It was expected the overnight closures would be in place from the Wallows Lane junction from April 16 to 23. But the closure during work has been put on hold to a date to be confirmed.

Work on the project, led by the Highways Agency, is now under way. It is due to be completed by May 28.

The scheme will be among the first 'pinch-point improvement schemes to be carried out in the West Midlands and is the start of a £50 million upgrade to the roads.

Addict jailed for harassing pensioner

A FATHER banned from contacting a Walsall pensioner after harassing him into handing over his £9,000 life savings is beginning a 12-month prison sentence for repeat-

savings is beginning a 12-month prison sentence for repeatedly breaching the restraining order.

Richard Featherstone preyed on 81-year-old Richard Williams, pestering him for money to feed his crack cocaine hasbit. He was jailed for 11 weeks last December for harassment. The 35-year-old, of Whitehall Road, Palfrey, was served with a restraining order forbidding any more contact with Mr William but last week was hauled before Wolverhampton Crown Court and labelled a "manipulative bully" after breaching the order for a third and fourth time.

The court heard he had taken virtually all of Mr Williams' savings and left him worried about his future.

claiming he needed the money to pay for vets bills.

He again breached the restraining order by phoning the pensioner two days later. Ms Ruck told the court that Mr Williams had described how the constant harassment had upset him.

Ashamed

Featherstone admitted two breaches of the restraining order. Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, in mitigation, said Featherstone had met Mr Williams on good terms before he became addicted to class A drugs, and was ashamed to have taken advantage of him to get money to buy drugs.

influence of crack cocaine, recognises the seriousnes what he has done."

He told the court Featherstone had attempted suicide in

He told the court Featherstone had attempted suicide in the past and had been caring for his partner, who has arthritis. During an appearance at Walsall Magistrates Court, Featherstone was said to have been suffering because his four-year-old son had been diagnosed with meningitis.

Recorder Abigail Nixon told him he had repeatedly breached an order put in place to protect a "vulnerable" man. Jailing him for eight months for the first breach and four months for the second, to run consecutively, she warned him: "If you continue to breach that order, the sentences will get longer and longer." tences will get longer and longer."

in brief

Football club to host family event

DANCE classes, football and a disco will be on offer at a family day which will be held in Walsall Wood.

be held in Walsall Wood.
The Family Fit and Fun
Day will be held at Oak
Park Leisure Centre and
Walsall Wood FC's
ground, off Lichfield Road,
on May 11.
Organisers hope to
follow on from the success
of last year's event, when
more than 700 people
turned up.

more than 700 people turned up.

Activities will run from

Activities will run irom 11am to 4pm and range from dance closses to a rock and roll disco. It is organised by Aldridge and Beacon Area Partnership.

Challenging the attitude to nature

A NEW exhibition will go on show at Walsall's New Art Gallery this month. The Nature of the Beast

The Nature of the Beast includes the work of contemporary artists who challenge attitudes towards the natural world and the animal kingdom. Artists include Mat Collishaw, Mark Fairnington, Tessa Farmer and Polly Morgan, among others.

The exhibition goes on show on April 26 until June 30.

Helping women to look for work

WOMEN who want advice on getting into work can attend a free training course at a community centre in Darlaston.

It runs on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Olio Hub, in Midland Road, from 10am to 2pm, and is open to women aged 18 and over.

The course provides help with CV writing and interview skills. To book a place call 07963 196069.

Society invitation to look at Saturn

VISITORS to Barr Beacon local nature reserve will have the chance to glimpse the planet Saturn on Sunday, April 28. Countryside rangers and members of Walsall Astronomical Society will be out from 9pm until midnight. Call 01922 459813.

Call for a clean up across Caldmore

VOLUNITEERS are being sought for a clean-up in Caldmore on Saturday, April 27. Meet at Walsall Independent Evangelical Church at 10.30am. Lunch and equipment will be provided. Call 01922 612223.

£80k fall in income from council markets

INCOME from council-run markets has slumped by more than £80,000 in a year as fewer traders take up stalls in Walsall.

New figures show that income of £763,428 was raised in the 12 months to the end of March, compared with £848,416 the previous year. The amount the council spent on the markets dropped by £47,026.

The market in Walsall town centre made a profit of more than £250,000 in the last 12 months, helping to cover losses of £92 000 at Willenball.

of £22,000 at Willenhall.

nf £22,000 at Willenhall Expenditure on markets dropped in 2012-13 but Walsall Council insist that they remain an "important part" of the borough. Plans for a new £1 million town centre market are being developed. The Walsall market made a profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede a profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich mede as profit of £256,000 compared with £313,000 the previous years ploywich years **New bus** for home

A MOBILITY minibus has

A MOBILITY minibus has been given to a care home. Ash Grange Care Home, Valley Road, Bloxwich, received one of 200 being delivered by HC-One health-care company. Each minibus has been specifically modi-fied for the needs of resi-dents.

dents.

HC-One managing director Pam Finnis, who appeared on Channel 4's Undercover Boss programme, said: "The arrival of the HC-One minibus fleet a milestone for the

is a milestone for the company.
"HC-One's aim is to provide the kindest care in the country.
"The minibuses have been specially converted to become wheelchair accessible, with a new floor fitted to each for seat belt fixings, along with a tail lift, side step, blue internal lights for night travel, a skylight hatch and heating."

"Residents will enjoy more exciting outings and lead a fuller life."

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vious year. Bloxwich made a profit of £12,056 compared with £8,211 previously. Both subsidise Willenhall, which made a loss of £22,802 compared with a £34.231.

Dropped

Average take-up of stalls at Walsall dropped by between four and seven per cent, with biggest falls on Wednesdays and Fridays. In Willenhall it fell from

81 per cent to 67 per cent on Wednesdays and down to 30 Wednesdays and down to 30 per cent occupancy on Sat-urdays. At Bloswich the Tuesday take-up reduced from 53 per cent to 44, while Friday and Saturday remained the same.

Tony Larner, chairman of Walsall Market Traders Association, said high charges and a rent rise was to blame

Regeneration chief Coun-

Regeneration chief Coun cillor Adrian Andrew said:
"Markets at Walsall, Willenhall and Bloxwich play a
really important part in the
lives of the three towns."

Freephone

Anne on the run to mark anniversary IT is 10 years since Anne Kelsall was diagnosed with cancer. Now the 55-year-old from Walsall is preparing to run the London Marathon on Sunday. She says she was motivated to want do not be sayed to be sayed to be sayed.



Determined Anne Kelsall is preparing to run the London Marathon on Sunday to mark 10 years since she was diagnosed with breast cancer

GERMANY HAS THE ANSWER TO YOUR HEATING PROBLEMS

provide a positive image for other women diagnosed with

Milestone

She said the 10-year milestone was important to her and she wanted to mark it by doing something significant.

Anne is raising money for the support charity Breast Friends, based at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW I TRIED the BBC's new socia

class calculator three times, and class calculator three times, and came up with three different answers. Apparently, I can't be "traditional working class" because I don't go to "gigs". But should anybody over 40 admit to going to "gigs" anyway? We go to concerts, surely?

According to the research, the "established middle class" are gregarious individuals with "high cultural capital", whereas the "technical middle class" are a "small distinct group that aren't so social, but are into emerging culture such as gaming, the inter-net and rock music". O net and rock music". Or teenagers, as we used to call

teenagers, as we used to call them.

Where it falls down for me is that it seems to be less about what you do, and more about who you know.

Now many of us will be members of special interest groups which can result in some very strange results. For example, if you are a member of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club, your circle of friends may well include a mixture of mechanics and millionaires.

well include a mixture of mechanics and millionaires.

And given that "journalist" is not among the 18 occupations identified in the questionnaire, it seems that half of my friends don't exist. But thirdly, what about all those casual acquaintances we might socialise with on a regular basis, without ever discussing work?

Looking down the list, I know a teacher, a nurse and a university

lecturer. I think a chap I meet twice a year might be an electri-cian, but I could have that wrong. Does the bloke who owns ar

Does the bloke who owns an engineering works in Bilston count as a chief executive? The survey seems to assume we all live our social lives around the dinner party circuit.

Maybe those who came up with the questions think that the "traditional working class", when not at gigs, spend their time hosting their special brand of dinner parties. You know, where people sit around the table quaffing cans of Special Brew while watching videos of Jeremy

quaffing cans of Special Brew while watching videos of Jeremy Kyle, and discussing the life of a shop assistant or a lorry driver. But I can't help think that while the survey tells us much about the social background of those who work at the BBC, it says very little about the rest of us.

A SCIENTIST in Iran, that most progressive and forward-thinking

progressive and forward-thinking of nations, has patented a time machine which he says enables him to see into the future.

Ali Razhegi claims his Aryayek Time Travelling Machine can see up to eight years ahead, and predict future events with 98 per

predict future events with 98 per cent accuracy.
Sadly for Mr Razeghi, I fear somebody has beaten him to it. For many years there has been a device around which can show any Iranians what their country will — with any luck – look like in 50 to 100 years' time.

It's called the plane out of Iran.



Shropshire star – Pat, right, playing for Shrewsbury
Town against Peterborough nearly 50 years ago
The young Pat Wright at Derby in 1967 with Brian
Clough, left, and Rams Chairman Sam Longson





Eastern delight – Pat Wright, picuted right, meets World Cup hero Bobby Moore whilst playing in Dubai in 1970

Pat still gets a kick from life in football

Pat Wright has spent more than half a century in football but still has passion for the game and for encouraging the new generation. CRAIG HUGHES meets him

HE was a professional footballer, coached future internationals and worked for greats such as Brian Clough and Don Revie.

Hevie.

The passion for football is showing no signs of dwindling for 72-year-old Pat Wright. The football fanatic, who originally hails from Oldbury, launched his academy more than 30 years ago after a playing career which started in Birmingham as a tongwor.

playing career which started in Birmingham as a teenager.

After well over 200 first team games with spells at Blues, club captain at Shrewsbury, Derby and Portsmouth, he went on to manage and coach in the Middle East.

Pat originally got involved in coaching during his late 20s, while still playing, and has gone on to develop hundreds of young players through his own football academy.

Boss

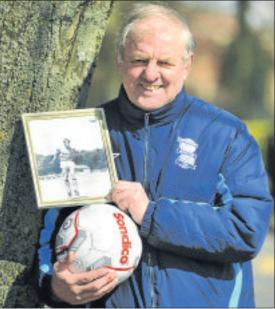
Former England and Aston Villa mid-fielder Lee Hendrie, Republic of Ireland centre-half Sean St Ledger and ex-West Bromwich Albion and current Leicester winger Lloyd Dyer are just some to have honed their skills under his tutelage. He has worked with current Walsall

He has worked with current Walsall boss Dean Smith and former Saddlers defender Stuart Watkiss, who went on to manage Kidderminster Harriers and Mansfield.

Mansfield.

The lifestyles of the current crop of footballers are a world away from the when he started. Pat, who played right back and was a West Bromwich Albion fan as a child, was spotted by scouts at Birmingham when 15. He was part time by the time he made his debut aged 19, also working as an engineer at London Works (Barlows) Ltd in Oldbury.

He would regularly go to work, then



Experienced football coach Pat Wright learned his work ethic from Brian Clough

Experienced football coach Pat Wright! trainings, not getting home until 9pm, as he came through the ranks – even later when there was an away game.

"I used to get up at 6.30am, work until 5pm and then go to St Andrew's three nights a week," he said. "Now they talk about players being tired but its a load of rubbish.

"Putting that shirt on, even playing in the seventh team, was a tremendously

earned his work ethic from Brian Clough
to the first team. It was just a fantastic
feeling to get out and play in front of big
crowds."

When at Shrewsbury he got the call to
link up with Clough at Derby in 1967.

"He had terrific standards, discipline,
you had got to do things right," said Pat.
He became player-manager at nonleague Waterlooville and also did coaching at Partsmouth at the same time.

ing at Portsmouth at the same time. For more details call 0121 357 360. Then he was contacted by former email pandesports@patwright.co.uk

Coventry chairman and former Match Of

Coventry chairman and former Match Of The Day presenter Jimmy Hill in the 1970s to help assist Saudi Arabia.

During that time he came across the old Leeds boss and United Arab Emirates chief Don Revie. Pat sought him out and they went on to work together.

The father-of-one, who now lives in Great Barr, enjoyed his time in the Middle East where he got to play alongside England World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore and goalkeeper Ray Clemence.

Boddy Moore and goalacter. And Clemence.

Working alongside Clough and Reverent reinforced his commitment to discipline and his work ethic. It helped fuel his desire to coach talented youngsters.

Stunted

"I just love football. I love seeing kids develop," he said. "I get tremendous pride seeing them become internationals.

"Our kids at the moment, because clubs are bringing a lot of foreign players over, are being stunted. My passion is to get as many English kids as we can to a good level of football.

"You won't get anywhere in football if you haven't get a great work ethic a

you haven't got a great work ethic, a tremendous attitude and coachability, that is listening and understanding what

that is listening and understanding what the coach says."
He also remembers having the current Saddlers boss as a youngster.
"I am very, very proud of what Dean has done and he is going to be an outstanding manager. He is playing the game properly and he talks a proper game. He was a stalwart at Walsall and he has done an outstanding ioh."

standing job."
Pat's academy runs at St Francis of Assisi School in Erdington Road, Aldridge, on Wednesdays from 6 to 7.30pm. He has launched a new class for five to six years-olds which has been inspired by the Barcelona system to teach technique and discipline. Sessions are also held for six to 11 year-olds on a Friday 6.30-7.30pm and for those aged 11 to 16 between 7.30 and 9nm. Assisi School in Erdington Road,

9pm.
For more details call 0121 357 3602 or

THROUGH

1983...

RAILWAY passengers were at the centre of drama when their train broke down and needed to be pushed to safety by an intercity express train. Passengers on the Birmingham – Wolverhampton service were stranded near Tipton, but the Coventry – Manchester service shunted them six miles into the city

COUNCILLORS in Birming-ham were on the ball when they met their opposite numbers who were visiting from Belfast. The two groups of councillors took part in a football match at Birm-ingham City's training ground.

A WOMAN claimed she had A WOMAN claimed she had been driven out of her Wolver-hampton council home by a poltergeist. Mrs June Zachariasz claimed that on one occasion a milk bottle flew through the air, smashing on the wall.

1993...

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Nether-A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Netherton boy rushed to save his
mother as she lay semi-conscious from an electric shock.
Wayne Chancellor was praised
by firemen for swiftly alerting relatives after he found his mum
suffering convulsions caused by
a faulty electric lead.

WOLVERHAMPTON-based construction firm Tarmac were awarded an £8.4 million contract by developers Don and Roy Richardson to design and build the next phase of the Waterfront complex at Brierley Hill development was expected to create around 500 jobs.

FAMILIES were flocking to cinemas across the Midlands to see a film made in 1967. Walt Disney classic The Jungle Book was re-released to widespread acclaim and immediately shot to the top of the British film charts.

2003...

A GRAND Theatre audience in Wolverhampton had to be sent home after a performance of Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Cats was interrupted by a power cut after just five minutes. Theatre bosses brought down the curtain when lighting and sound failed due to an electrical fault in a sub-

CROWDS of youngsters hoping to make a splash in a paddling pool were left high and dry when they discovered it had been drained. Council chiefs had decided to drain the pool in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, for cleaning after complaints that it was being used as a toilet was being used as a toilet.

BOSSES at the Black Country BUSSES at the Black Country Living Museum launched a hunt to find a traditional baker. They warned visitors could end up going hungry at The Bakers Shop, one of the most popular attractions at the open-air museum on Tipton Road, Dudley.



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Too little too late by council

THE front page of last week's Chronicle, heading 'Bedroom tax unites council in a protest,' it mentioned the councillors called for the bedroom tax to be scrapped due to effect it will have on less well-off residents. But this bedroom tax had been

But this bedroom tax had been planned months in advance before it came into force – why didn't our councillors protest then and contact the Government before it came into force in April?

All of sudden councillors now say 'it is the worst legislation we have seen in a long time'. Councillors should have acted sooner.

acted sooner. Why have our councillors not

stopped the council from raising Walsall residents' council tax to 2.2 per cent in 2013/14?

Is not this council tax going to affect less well-off residents in Walsall? When I received my council tax bill

cent in 2013/14?

That's a 1.8 per cent council tax services increase, then with police and fire service increase added, the total increase is 2.2 per cent.

The Government offered grants to councils that froze their council tax for 2013/14, many councils did freeze their council tax, which included Birmingham, Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Coventry, Solihull etc.

Those councils that did raise council tax were few and only rose by 0.8 per cent.

cent.
Why didn't they protest against this?

When I received my council tax bill for 2013/14 it was so high I put in a appeal to council. I was overcharged by £600 for the year. Who else in Walsall has been overcharged council tax?

Any Walsall residents who feel their bill is too high should put in an appeal to the council. Don't pay what you should not be paying.

Councillors should spend more time in the community, speaking to residents and business, rather than spendients and business, rather than spending time in too many meetings.

ARJUN CHAND

Alumwell

Congratulations for rising star of children's books

HOW wonderful to see that Walsall has its very own Roald Dahl in the making—John Dony—and that he is now experiencing the first buds of real success.

Children's books have a great influence on minds of all ages that's for sure.

When I wrote about the former Walsall resident and actor Richard Wattis a while back, I covered his performance in the 1969 film version of Ian Fleming's classic chil-

of Ian Fleming's classic chil-dren's tale 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. I couldn't help but ponder the effect the child catcher

scene had on my own psyche as a child and even now, right up to my 50th birthday, which was on April 11.

My wife and I have been

My wite and I have been friendly with Roald Dahl's niece for many years now and also knew her mother (Roald's sister). I recently

her to read.

What a great life and career Roald Dahl led. What is often forgotten is Roald's thought-provoking input into stroke rehabilitation, into stroke rehabilitation, when he nursed his former actress wife Patricia Neal back from a very severe stroke in the 1960s. Roald was also a friend of Ian Fleming.

Walsall has produced some extremely talented people and John goes onto that list without a shadow of doubt.

doubt.

Hopefully it is his time now for basking in the sun-shine of success. Congratu-lations and good luck to him

IAN PAYNE Thornbury Road Walsall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Iverhampton WV1 1FS

E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@ expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Thousands of tenants to **be hit by 'bedroom tax'**I HAVE been informed by the chief executive at Walsall Housing Group (whg) that there are over 2,000 tenants of the organisation who are affected by the bedroom tax. Other bousing associations covering the borough would

Other housing associations covering the borough would also have a considerable number in the same position.

also have a considerable number in the same position.

Mr Gary Fulford makes the point in his letter to me that whg can only assist with downsizing when smaller properties become vacant.

This means that even those tenants who, in order to avoid the bedroom tax, wish to move will not be able to do so for a long time. I would assume this will apply no less to other tenants of social landlords locally.

Tenants who receive housing benefit will not be exempt if they are disabled, unless there is an overnight care. Further, non-custodial parents whose arrangements are made for children to stay with them on certain days or weekends will be subject as well to the tax.

DAVID WINNICK MP House of Commons



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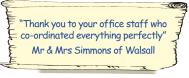


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NEWS

Runners and riders at the ready



HUNDREDS of runners and mountain bikers are expected to take part in a weekend of extreme races in Cannock.
The first "Tread and Shred Weekender' takes place on
Saturday and Sunday at the Tackeroo campsite on
Penkridge Bank Road.
It start with a muddy 10km off-road run on the Saturday,

followed by a children's mountain bike race in the after

Hardened riders will take part in an 'enduro' – a two- or

four-hour endurance race – on the Sunday, tackling steep hills and challenging terrain.
Organiser Neil Scriven, co-owner of Hednesford shop Run and Ride, said: "If we can make it work, it will become

Run and Ride, said: "If we can make it work, it will become an annual thing.

The cycle and running shop on Walkers Rise puts on various annual events. Tickets for the Tread and Shred Weekender can be bought on the day, or online at the www.treadandshred.co.uk website.

MP in bedroom tax protest

of his Labour colleagues visited the Prime Minister's country residence Chequers to hand over a letter of protest over the contro-

versial 'bedroom tax'.

The Walsall North MP travelled to the mansion in Buckinghamshire, which he claims has up to 10 "extra bed-

He was joined by Oldham West MP Michael Meacher and Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins to call on PM David Cameron to pay bedroom tax on his spare rooms. The trio were making their feelings known over the con-

which sees housing benefit recipients with a spare bedroom forced to take a cut of 14 per cent – or 25 per cent for two

spare rooms.

In a letter to Mr Cameron, Mr Winnick labelled the bedroom tax "unjust and cruelly vindictive". He wrote: "These families, amongst the poorest in Britain, will be forced to pay from their own subsistence income extra rent amounting to about £11 a week or about £20 to £25 a week. "If they cannot afford this extra rent, they will be forced out of their homes

He asked Mr Cameron "under the circumstances" to pay a contribution for the "spare rooms" at Chequers.

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Plan is withdrawn but residents will fight on



A protest by residents who are unhappy about the possibility of housing on green belt land in Lincoln Road, Walsall

Children to be eyes and ears on street in scheme

YOUNG people have been signed up to become the eyes and ears of Walsall under a pilot scheme.

A group of students from Castlefort JMI Primary School, in Walsall Wood, signed up for the young street champion scheme.

It is the first in a series of events to encourage more young people to take part. Street champions report matters such as fly-tipping, graffiti and anti-social behaviour to the council, police and partner agencies.

More than 100 residents have signed up to become street champi-ons since it launched in 2006. They can also act as the first point

of contact for other residents.

Communities boss Ian Shires said: "Young people have a different perspective than adults, they may see things that adults may not

To become a street champion call 01922 654299.

have pledged to keep fighting long-running plans to develop the only piece of green space in their

Western Power Distribution last week Western Power Distribution last week withdrew proposals for the small piece of land on the corner of Princess Avenue and Lincoln Road. But people in the area say they fear the plans will resurface again in the near future.

Mother-of-one Fay Rutter, of Lincoln Road, is leading a campaign and started a petition which has now got just under 100 signatures added to it.

signatures added to it.

Mrs Rutter, 43, who works at Dog House
Antiques, said: "We heard about the appli-cation a couple of months ago.

Trees

"A lot of the residents were not informed properly about these plans. "There are trees on the land that are over 100-years-old. That's why we started a peti-

100-years-old. That's why we started a petition.

"The residents have been up in arms about it. In the summer it's a really pretty area. It's the only piece of green land we have around here."

Mrs Rutter said the next step was to try to get preservation orders served on the historia trace at the air.

toric trees at the site. She added: "Western Power Distribution

She added: "Western Power Distribution put in a change of use application like this 10 years ago and we kept that at bay. "There has been strong support in the community about all of this. It shows what you can do if you stick together. "We are ready to fight them again," she said

Ladies choir is singing for mayor's charities

PELSALL Ladies Choir will be giving their first charity concert of the year in aid of the Mayor of Walsall's charities at 5t Michael's Church in Pelsall on Saturday, April 27 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 including light refreshments, under-16s free, on the door.



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Join our coach on Sunday morning for the journey to the Lake District. Our first stop is charming village of Cartmel, spend a leisurely hour here, then go on to our hotel with time to settle-in and



freshen-up before dinner this evening.

Monday: Breakfast prior to a special day in the Lake District. The coach will take you to Haverthwaite to board a steam train for a short journey through the scenery of the Leven Valley to Lakeside. Here, we board a boat for a 40 minute cruise on Lake Windermere to Bowness. Enjoy some free time in Bowness including time for lunch if you wish. To round off the day we take a short trip along the shores of Windermere, through Ambleside to Grasmere and stop here for a little while before we finally leave the Lake District for home.

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> Coach departs: Sunday 12th May, 1st September £89

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Day 3: Breakfast, then a day of contrasts as we visit a vibrant, trendy town Cavan and a more typically Irish town, Kells. Later we pass through the village of Slane and make a final stop at the Battle of the Boyne visitor centre in Donore Day 4: Breakfast, then today your driver will offer you an optional trip out or you may want to stay in and relax today. **Day 5:** An early start today as we leave the hotel around 6:00 and head back to Dublin to catch the 8:20 ferry back to Holyhead. We have breakfast on the ferry this morning instead of the hotel

Price includes: 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast, coach & ferry travel plus trips out. SS £60

Coach departs: Monday 29th April £199

Llangollen Day Trip £46

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The trip finishes on a high - literally! As the boat crosses the

spectacular Pontcysyllte Aqueduct 126ft above the Dee Valley floor. After the cruise, there's time to explore charming Llangollen itself before we head for home

> Price includes: coach, boat trip plus lunch as shown.

Coach departs: Thursday 23rd May & 4th July £46

Lincoln Mini Break £79

Take a trip to the delightful and enchanting city of Lincoln. Steeped in history, dating back to roman times coupled with a range of shops. restaurants, bars and tea rooms.



Day 1: Join the coach for the drive to Lincolnshire, half way we stop for a nice coffee and have a short break, we arrive in Lincoln around lunchtime. The coach will set down in the town centre and you'll have pleanty of free time to explore. leaving at 4:30pm to check in for a comfortable evening including dinner.

Day 2: After breakfast, we head for the charming market town of Chesterfield in the Peak District which is on our route home. Chesterfield's ancient and colourful market is on today so have a browse while you're here. Don't miss the town's famous crooked spire of the Church of St. Mary and the Museum on St. Mary's Gate very close to the Chuch is well worth a visit. After a good time in Chesterfield we leave

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visit to Kensington Palace in the heart of London. Explore the new gardens, shop, café and terrace as well as four redesigned visitor routes revealing the Queen Victoria exhibition. Then time at Covent Garden before we leave for home

rice includes: coach, hotel, breakfast & admisson to Houses of Parliament & Kensington Palace. SS £20

Coach departs: Saturday 22nd June £99

GB TOURS

NEWS

Fundraisers net £1,000 for charity



Lee Jackson and Dave Brown with players including regulars from the Navigation Inn and workers from Alcoa

A FOOTBALLING fundraiser to drum up support for a charity which helps children with cancer has raised nearly

The game was hosted at Wednesfield Football Club and pulled in regulars from Willenhall's Navigation Inn pub as well as a group of fathers who met while watching their sons play for Lane Head under-9s football team in Willenhall.
Workers from the Birmingham

based aluminium company Alcoa also took part in the charity match. The clash saw the Lane Head Dads

team triumph over their rivals Mr Brown's Boys 11-5.

Organiser and father-of-two Dave Brown, who works at Alcoa, said he was pleased with the response.

However, the 38-year-old from Small Shire Close in Wednesfield could Sman Shire Close in wedneshed could not play himself as his knees restricted him to a managerial role. He added: "It's just such a worth-

while cause, it's good to raise money for it.

"We've all got children and a lot of people out there will understand as soon as you think of children suffering,

soon as you think of children suffering, you want to help them."

The majority of the funds were donated by bosses at Alcoa while players also paid a fee to take part.

Among the players on the winning Lane Head Dads side was Lee Jackson, a father-of-two, from Baynton Road, Willenhall, who is also running the London Marathon in aid of the same cause.

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Engineering college is to be transformed

Champagne launch



Lyndsey Winwood, owner of Moore Than Nails, celebrates with staff after she reopened her hair and beauty salon

CHAMPAGNE was enjoyed at the opening of an Aldridge hair and beauty salon which has relocated within the town.

Altridge hair and beauty salon which has relocated within the town.

Lyndsey Winwood, who

opening of an Aldridge hair and beauty salon which has relocated within the town.

Moore Than Nails has moved from Aldridge High Street to a shop in Croft Parade. The salon is now able to offer hairdressing

in Bloxwich is being transformed in a revamp costing nearly £6 million.

a revamp costing nearly £6 million.

Kier Construction has been announced as the preferred bidder for the redevelopment of the Black Country University Technical College.

A new technical centre will be created at the Vernon Way site, boasting a hi-tech science department, workshops and new subject rooms. Garden areas will be created along with a new five-a-side football pitch.

The Black Country UTC opened in September 2009 and aims to equip 14 to 19-year-olds with special skills for the engineering industry. It was created at the former site of Sneyd Community School which closed in 2010 amid falling pupil numbers and poor results.

More than £1m of work has already been carried out at the site, and bosses say the area will be completely transformed.

Robotics

Principal Chris Hilton said: "The plans for

Principal Chris Hilton said: "The plans for the redevelopment of the Vernon Way campus are very exciting for Walsall and the Black Country. The new UTC will provide excellent facilities for young people to help them become skilled and professional engineers, designers and scientists."

Bosses say it will have a new technical centre to showerse engineering including computer.

to showcase engineering, including computer-aided design, graphic design, robotics and elec-

tronics.

The science department will also boast a hitech lab based on a live research centre.

It will have a featured walkway called The Street which will lead to main subject rooms and there will be a range of "break-out" centres and places where people can study.

Conference facilities, a cyber cafe and a test twolf for tribiliscients over the substitution of the conditions of the conference facilities.

Conference facilities, a cyber care and a test track for trialling robotics are also included.

Robin Butler, Kier Construction regional manager, said: "As a locally based business I am delighted that we have secured this exciting £5.9 million project via the academies framework."

See Focus on Bloxwich - Page 18







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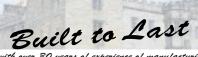


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NEWS

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MONDAY

Holy Name Catholic Church Birmingham Road, Scott Arms, Great Barr, B43 6LN 09:30 - 11:00 am (Slim & Aerobics)

Pennyhill Primary School, Hollyhedge Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3DJ 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Slim & Aerobics)

TUESDAY

St Johns Church Centre, Church Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2LB 09:30 - 11:00 am (Slim & Aerobics)

Blue Coat Church Of England Comprehensive School Birmingham Street, Walsall, WS1 2ND 6:30 - 8:00 pm (Slim & Aerobics)

Perry Hall Methodist Church

Rocky Lane, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 1QF 09:15 - 10:30 am (Slim & Fitness Pilates)

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Grove Vale Junior School, Monksfield Avenue, Off Newton Road Great Barr B43 6AL 6:30 - 8:00 pm (Slim & Aerobics)

THURSDAY

Perry Hall Methodist Church

Rocky Lane, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 1QF 6:00 - 7:15 pm (Slim & Aerobics) 7:15 - 8:00 pm (Slim & Fitness Pilates)

SATURDAY

Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 1QF 09:15 - 10:30 am(Slim & Aerobics)



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Mark Pressdee with colleague Jane Ward at a screening of Titanic Love at the Lighthouse in Wolverhampton

Titanic movie is making waves at festivals

AN award-winning film which has made vaves all over the world came home to the

Waves all over the world came home to the Black Country for a special screening.

Titanic Love was written and directed by Darlaston man Mark Pressdee and has received acclaim at film festivals in Los Angeles and Germany.

The short comedy tells the story of a woman obsessed with all things Titanic and was filmed in Birmingham last

year. After showing it at several festivals, and winning Best Screenplay at the Los Angeles Comedy Festival, 44-year-old Mr Pressdee wanted to give Titanic Love a Black Country

premiere.
Friends, students and film industry insiders attended the screening at The Lighthouse Cinema. Mr Pressdee said: "We released the film last year as a short film and then entered it into film festivals," he said. "Thankfully it's doing well." Visit www.titaniclove.com for details.

Pensioner, 89, found dead by his daughter

AN 89-year-old widower found dead at his home in Walsall has been named as Joseph Hickman.

One of his daughters, Pat Smith, found him on Tuesday, April 9, and raised the alarm. The former caster had lived in the bungalow at Edison Road, Beechdale, for 19 years.

Mrs Smith, 66, said: "His living room was full of smoke. I opened the door and found him lying on the floor. I called the ambulance but I think he was already dead when they got there."

Tests suggest he may have died from a heart attack. Police are not treating the death as suspicious.

Marathon for sister

RUNNER Mark Foster from field in June 2011. An Willenhall is pounding the inquest is expected to be held streets of London on Sunday this year.

Mr Foster, of Essington Way, said: "Chelsea suffered Way, said: "Chelsea suffered from depression and Young-taking part in the London Minds is precisely the kind of Marathon on Sunday to raise charity she could have

The 31-year-old will be taking part in the London Marathon on Sunday to raise funds for the YoungMinds

charity. His sister Chelsea Clark, a pupil at Wolverhampton Girls High School, died sud-denly at her home in Finch-

charity she could have turned to. The family miss

turned to. The family miss her every day." Support can be given online at the website www.justgiving.com/chelsea -gillian-courtney-clark

CLUB NEWS

An insight MP gives lowdown into Sister On being a politician

WEDNESBURY TG

A TALK by Margaret Key, TWG national vice chair-man, in the guise of Sister Dora – or Dorothy Wyndlow Pattinson as she was origi-nally known – proved to be a fascinating insight into little-known facts about this

little-known facts about this wonderful woman. Sister Dora first arrived in Walsall in 1865 and made her mark as an outstanding, and sometimes controversial nurse, until her death in 1878. Among people who attended her funeral were the Mayor of Walsall and two bishops. together with

bishops, together with countless local people who broke through a police

cordon to
Guild members so enjoyed
a presentation of old films
last year that a return visit was requested.

Appointed

Ian Edwards again showed rare film footage, including a silent movie of Laurel & Hardy and a very early Mickey Mouse cartoon. Pathe News items caused members to comment how so many things had changed over the years. Chris Shufflebotham was delighted to be appointed as

Chris Shufflebotham was delighted to be appointed as Honorary President for the current term and takes over from Mary Arrowsmith.

With the promise of more settled weather approaching there will be many events to enjoy, including trips and theatre visits.

Meetings take place at

Meetings take place at 7pm at the Wesley Centre, Spring Head, Wednesbury, very first Thursday.



WOMBOURNE WI

SPEAKER for the evening was Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire. He spoke about the role of an MP and how he became one.

At the end of the lower sixth in a school in Scarborough, pupils were asked to decide on possible occupations so that arrangements could be made for students to shadow

could be made for students to snadow someone in that job.
Gavin chose to shadow an MP and was surprised and pleased when John Sykes, MP for Scarborough and Whitby, agreed that Gavin could accompany him.
They attended surgeries, met with local business people, visited factories and visited

local constituents who had particular prob

lems.

After a very busy, informative and enjoyable three days, Gavin decided that this was the job for him.

During his time at university he continued with his interest in politics. While working at the Ainsley pottery, helping to steer them through difficult times, he heard that Sir Patrick Cormack was retiring and after discussion with his wife, he decided to apply to be a candidate.

Mr Williamson's job as an MP is to represent South Staffordshire at Westminster and he has a constituency of around 89,000. It was lively, informative, interesting and light hearted talk.

It was lively, informative, interesting and light hearted talk.

After tea and cake the business of the evening was dealt with and the Easter bonnets judged. First was Jean Tasker. Joint second were Pat Elwell and Pat Clarke.

113 attend annual dinner

ON March 28, it was the South Staffordshire Federa-tion's annual dinner at the Terrace Restaurant, Brownhills.

There were 113 members

SOUTH STAFFS FEDERATION OF TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILDS

well entertained by speaker
David Howe who told funny
stories and jokes.

The group would like to
thank the management and
staff for all their hard work.



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Families furious at heating costs



Sylvia Kelly, right, with fellow residents, from left, Chloe Brookes, Alise Mainwearing and Glenys Barnfield with children Hannah Mainwearing, Dolcie Brookes and Cole Brookes

HOUSING association residents living in new homes in Darlaston have been left struggling to pay electric bills amounting to hundreds of pounds a month due to expen-

hundreds of pounds a month due to expensive boiler systems, it is claimed.

Tenants living in Accord Group properties in Finery Road and Iron Mill Way have reported exceptionally high energy charges, prompting an investigation.

Some have moved out due to soaring costs, while others are switching off their heating to save cash.

Dave Livesey, asset manager for Accord Group, said an investigation was underway

to measure energy usage in the properties and he encouraged residents to approach the housing association if they think they are affected.

are affected.

Retired shop assistant Sylvia Kelly has lived with husband James, 55, in a two-bedroom bungalow in Iron Mill Way for just over two years. The 61-year-old said: "Someone else has had a bill for £1,700 for the quarter. People have had to borrow money to pay their bills.

"Some people have moved out because they can't afford it. It's absolutely outrageous."

Nine admit roles in troub

NINE men have admitted being involved in trouble during an English Defence League protest in Walsall town centre.

in Walsall town centre.

Trouble flared at the EDL rally in Leicester Street on September 29. Hundreds of EDL supporters had been in the town and some stewards, EDL supporters and police officers suffered injuries when violence erupted.

Seven men appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week and each pleaded guilty to violent disorder. Mark Baker, aged 43, of Horseshoe Close, Pleck, Walsall; Benjamin Banfield, 34, of Meg Thatchers Green, Saint George, Bristol; Dean Lidster, 44, of Hatfield Road, Stratford; and Craig Forward, 37, of Neptune Street, Tipton, stood together as they delivered their pleas in front of Judge Michael Challinor.

Christopher Jelley, 27, of Broadway Close, Shrewsbury; Myles Smith, 39, of Parkway Towers, Leeds, and Leslie Silk, 36, of Gat-combe Road, Bristol, appeared in a separate

Combe Road, Briston, appeared in a separate hearing. Stephen Bennett, aged 23, of Fraser Road, Portsmouth, and Samuel Phipps, 18, of Lingfield Drive, Great Wyrley, appeared in front of Judge Challinor at another hearing.

Bail

All their cases were adjourned for pre-sentence reports to be prepared.

Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, representing Baker, said his client had learning difficul-

ties and was addicted to alcohol.

The defendants are due to appear in front of a judge at Wolverhampton Crown Court to be sentenced. They were all released on conditional bail.





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NEWS

Thieves caught on CCTV

Jall sentence.
Paul Gwilt, aged 25, and his colleague
Cristiann Purcell, 24, were caught after
thefts from Blakemore Foods in Walsall.
Prosecutor Mrs Sati Ruck told Wolverhampton Crown Court that the two had

worked for the business when goods were taken during the night. She said: "CCTV was viewed on January

She said: CC1 was viewed on January
13 and it showed a male take a cart of lager
and put it in his own vehicle at about
10.30pm. It showed the same thing happening at about midnight. Then a second male
put four boxes of cigarettes into his vehicle."
Purcell, of Boswell Read, Bilston, and
Gwilt, of Edwinstowe Close, Stourbridge,
was ordered to do 100 hours' unpaid work.

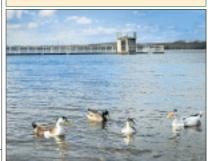
TWO men who stole alcohol and cigarettes from their employer have been spared an immediate jail sentence.

Paul Gwilt, aged 25, and his colleague Cristianp Purcell 24, were caught after.

Character

Recorder Miss Abigail Nixon told Purcell:
"You've had a difficult background and are
very supportive of your sister. I accept this
was out of character." To Gwilt, she said:
"The pre-sentence report says you like to
work hard. You're supportive of your
partner and a young child."
Both men were sentenced to four months
in juil supponded for 12 months. Then will

Chasewater cheer as the levels are back to normal



Ducks take to the water at Chasewater Reservoir as levels have returned to normal after it was drained in 2010

SPRING has barely sprung but at least the water levels at Chasewater Reservoir are back to normal. In the past few months the popular reservoir has been slowly filling up after it was drained in 2010. Temperatures have at last reached double figures and Chasewater ranger Andrew Chatwin has been cheered by water levels returning to normal despite the recent cold span

Thawing

"It has been back to normal for a while now," he said.
"The water has been a good level since before Christmas."
He added: "The rain last summer really helped and now
with the snow thawing that has helped top it up.
"It has been rather quiet with visitor numbers but I think
that is because the weather has been putting them off.
"But it does look great now and we hope to get more
people coming along."

people coming along."

Mr Chatwin said they had a number of activities for children to take part in over the holidays, and the boats were

also back sailing.

Chase Sailing Club will be holding its first open day in three years at Chasewater. The open event is on May 6.







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Investors award for firm

A WILLENHALL food delivery group has shown it has gone the extra mile to invest in the skills of its workforce and has been handed the Investors in People bronze award.

Blakemore Retail, which is part of AF Blakemore, has been recognised as an Investors in People employer since 2002 but has achieved the bronze status for the first time. The assessment process looks for continuous improvement in the way business communicates with and trains and develops its staff. More than 230 workers were interviewed.

Fun with felt art



Parents and youngsters take part in a 'felt balls' craft session at the New Art Gallery in Walsall

session at the New Art Gallery in Walsall FAMILIES have been busy during the school holidays with arts and crafts workshops. Toddlers and their parents gathered at Walsall's New Art Gallery to make pictures with felt. Youngsters also learned how wool is processed, how to felt some fleece and make a picture from sheep's wool. Gallery spokeswoman Chris Wilkinson said: "The workshops have seen the children making things out of felt and wool, all inspired by the Damien Hirst 'Away From The Flock' sheep artwork currently on display in the gallery." There will be another session on May 28 when youngsters can make their pom-pom animals, and a day later they can

can make their pom-pom animals, and a day later they can have a go at giant drawings of animals. There are also drop-in sessions on May 5 and June 2 for families to plant wild flower seeds. Places can be booked on 01922 654400.

Developer is hoping get started on homes site

A PRIVATE developer is considering drawing up plans for new homes on a flattened housing estate in Moxley, where one defiant homeowner is still standing firm.

Walsall Housing Group is working with the developer to look at options for Harrowby Road.

by Catherine Dalton

The site has been almost partnership with a private

completely demolished ahead of a multi-million pound regeneration. But the land has been

But the land has been standing almost empty for around eight years despite hundreds of residents being re-homed and their old houses demolished. It has fallen into a poor state and is regularly fly-tipped and hit by arsonists.

Viability

One defiant home owner remains at the rubble-reduced site and is still living there, despite offers to buy his home.

Bosses at the housing group said what happens next with the remaining homeowner is in the hands of the private developer.

of the private developer.

Mark Tranter, development director at Walsall Housing Group, said: "We are currently working in

py Catherine Dalton
partnership with a private
developer to explore the viability of redeveloping the
Harrowby Road site for a
mixed tenure residential
scheme, as part of our commitment to improve the
supply of much-needed
affordable, quality homes.
"Any arrangements with
the existing owner who
remains living on the site
will be undertaken by the
developer once we are
certain that the scheme will
go ahead."

go ahead." Councillors in the area say the community is keen to see the site finally be used for

the site finally be used for new housing.
Councillor Chris Bott, for Darlaston South, said: "It has been an eyesore for so many years now and it's cost thousands of pounds to clear up the fly-tipping. Everyone would be really pleased to finally see it being built on."





Insight on how new college is to operate

INFORMATION events will take place to give people an insight into the multimillion-pound University Technical College due to open in Bloxwich in September 2014 – only the second such college in the Black Country.

The £8 million West Midlands Construction UTC is earmarked to open in Vernon Way. The UTC will cater for 600 14 to 19-year-olds and will share a site with the £9.5m Black Country UTC, which specialises in engineering.

Country UTC, which specialises in engineering.
The first of the information events is to take place at the National Construction College in Birmingham on April 27.
There will also be an event at Walsall College, Littleton Street West, on June 22.
On August 24, information will be available at Wolverhampton University's Telford campus, in Shifnal Road.

Shifnal Road. All events will run from

10am through to 2pm.

Service to help teens

TEENAGERS struggling with difficult issues will now be able to get help at a new service in Bloxwich.

service in Bloxwich.

Here to Help has been created to provide youngsters aged 13 to 19 with a place to discuss their problems with a variety of experts. Call Liza Jackson on 07504 314 669 or email on 07504 314 669 or email sjacksonl@bloxwichcp.co.uk welcomed moves to regenerate the land. Councillor Smith said: "It is such an eyesore, you just about to see the main route smartened up on that smith specified in the second moves to regenerate the land.

Green light for shops and homes on pub site

created on the site of a former Bloxwich pub after receiving the go-ahead from planners.

The mixed residential and retail scheme will be built on the old Butler's Arms site which sits off the main Bloxwich Road. It comes after original proposals were turned down by Craig Hughes

almost three years ago and follows £230,000 improvements at the junction with Harden Road.

The pub was pulled down following vandalism and anti-social behaviour and the scheme will see four retail units, 10 two bedroom the scheme with the scheme with the scheme with the scheme was the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was the scheme with the scheme with the scheme with the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was the scheme with the scheme with the scheme was the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was the scheme was the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was the scheme was the scheme was the scheme was the scheme with the scheme was th apartments and eight sup-ported living units created.

Powers

It has been agreed by Walsall Council officers under delegated powers.

under delegated powers.

The adjacent Black Horse
pub was pulled down and
replaced by a car sales business several years ago.

Blakenall councillor Pete
Smith has led demands for
the old pub site to be
repaired and secured amid
concerns people were
getting out the lead. He getting onto the land. He welcomed moves to regener ed moves to regener-

sooner that site is cleared up and developed the better." Head of planning David Elsworthy said: "The principle of a mixed use develop ple of a mixed use develop-ment is acceptable in a local centre and is a welcome investment on this promi-nent derelict site. The con-temporary design is acceptable as is the scale of the proposed building in comparison to buildings in the surrounding area."

the surrounding area."
Original proposals were
thrown out by Walsall
Council in 2010 with concerns on layout and parking.
But a revised and downsized
scheme was put together.
Mr Elsworthy said: "The
layout of the flats has been
amended to improve the
outlook and accessibility for
occupiers.

occupiers.

"Parking is below the maximum standard.But given the local centre location and, as the number of flats and amount of floor space has been reduced, this level of parking is considered acceptable and will have no greater adverse impact on highway safety."



Senior countryside ranger Morgan Bowers, right, gets set for the litter pick held at Mill Lane Local Nature Reserve, in Goscote Valley, along with Councillor Eileen Russell, helper Ben Follows and Councillor Kath Phillips

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Pilgrim's

THE RECTOR of All Saints has followed in the footsteps of his forebears by going on a pilgrimage –to raise funds for a family support worker. Rev Roger Williams walked more than 85 miles along the Saint's Way trails from Chester to Lichfield, to raise money to keep the church's part-time family worker Roy Burley employed. worker employed.

Support

Mr Burley has helped the church support local fami-lies through hard times and

lies through hard times and has set up a youth club.

He was first employed in 2010 following a successful year of fundraising that managed to keep him in his post for three years.

So far the rector has managed to raise more than £2,000, which will fund Mr Burley for another three years.

ism and litter has been tidied up by volunteers.
Mill Lane Local Nature Reserve, in Goscote Valley, has been hit by litter louts but countryside rangers and volunteers pledged to "take back Mill Lane" with a big clean im To support the campaign visit the website www.just giving.com/Roger-Williams4 or text ROGW58 and an clean-up.
Ten joined the litter pick including Councillor Eileen Russell, of St Matthew's ward, who said: "I think it's amount to 70070. a great asset.

clean land

A BLOXWICH nature reserve plagued by vandal-ism and litter has been

Difference She said the difference being made by the litter-pickers could be seen within

also to remind people that there is a nature reserve on

their doorsteps.

Readings of

VOLUNTEERS are offering

VOLUNTEERS are offering visitors to Bloxwich Library a chance to hear favourite passages from books to celebrate World Book Night.

Members of the Bloxwich Library Forum will be making a selection of readings from their favourite books between 12.30pm and 1.30pm on April 23 at the 1.30pm on April 23 at the library in Elmore Row.

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Council consider ways to improve road safety

Old Hall celebration



Nigel Wiggin, front, Catherine Lister, museums collections officer Stan Harper, a worker at the firm, and Jennifer Thomson, curator

Stan Harper, a worker at the firm, and Jennifer Thomson, curator
THE centenary of the invention of
stainless steel is being celebrated at
an exhibition in Walsall – with the
help of one of the borough's firms.
Items from the Old Hall range are
forming part of the display at
Walsall Museum until June 1.
Table and teawer is on show at
the Lichfield Street museum.
Stainless steel was invented in
1913 but the Wiggin family, which
produce the Old Hall range, was the
first to use it in 1933.
Around 50 items are on display
including a prototype toaster and

ROAD improvements costing around £120,000 are being earcentre in a bid to cut accidents.

Chicanes and anti-skid surfacing are being considered by Walsall Council in moves to increase safety. There is regular congestion around the Bull Stake area where Pinfold Street, St Lawrence Way, Darlaston Road and Walsall Road meet.

Road meet.

Town centre safety measures are being developed, although subject to funding. It comes as £400,000 plans for 20mph speed limits and narrow roads in the heart of Walsall are being put forward.

Slowing

Transport chief Tom Ansell said there were 10 reported accidents, two classed as serious, in Darlaston over three years.
"We are looking at Walsall town centre as well, so we can make it safer for people without worrying too much about crossing" be said.

without worrying too much about crossing," he said.

"Chicanes are far better for slowing traffic down than speed humps."
Darlaston's bus interchange is being lined up for better facilities and passenger information, the council setting aside \$230,000 to help develop a scheme including crossings, as part of a project with transport authority Centro.

The council says there were more than 40 accidents in Walsall town centre between December 2009 and 2012 – most being slight collisions between pedestrians and cars.

Bridge Street and Lichfield Street are being assessed, although work is subject to funding.

Boy racers watched

POLICE are cracking down on groups of boy racers gathering in Moxley with extra patrols.

patrons.
Officers said they were now working with partner agencies to identify long term solutions to eradicate the problem.

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Singled out for praise



Singer/songwriter Amelia Gibson, aged 22, from Cheslyn Hay, who is about to release her new single

A SINGER from Cheslyn Hay star who hopes to emulate Pixie Lott's success is about to release her second single. Songwriter Amelia Gibson, 22, of Wolverhampton Road, was spotted by producers from Major Music Academy when her youtube videos went viral. The music moguls responsible for Pixie Lott helped Amelia develop her single, Time Waster, which was released at the start of this year.

waster, which was released at the start of this year.

The former pupil of Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community
High School, said: "I'm really excited about releasing my
second single. Sales from my first song went well."

Amelia will be playing her new single at The Royal Oak
pub in Great Wyrley on May 4. It will be available on
Amazon.co.uk and itunes.

Music fans have Faith in sell-out over Chase

TICKETS for a two-day music festival at Chase featuring Blondie and Paloma Faith have sold out.

Around 10,000 tickets have been snapped up for

Forest Live in June, the second year in succession that the concerts have sold out.

Recreational manager Andy Coggins, who is based at the Forestry Commission's Cannock Chase office, said demand had been high because of the quality of the two acts

Blondie's Debbie Harry

because of the quality of the two acts.

Mr Coggins said: "The tickets are now sold out. The two acts are very popular. It is the second year in a row that we've sold out so that's great.

"The tickets went on sale at Christmas so selling out

at Christmas so selling out in a few months is pretty good going."

A total of 1,000 Paloma tickets were sold in the first weekend of sales, while Blondie shifted 2,000 in the first weekend first weekend.

Revenue



Paloma will headline on June 28 and Blondie, supported by The Lightning Seeds, the following night.
Cannock Chase Councillor Christine Mitchell, cabinet member for culture, said: "It's brilliant news. These concarts always seem

said: "It's brilliant news.
These concerts always seem
to be successful. There is
always a nice atmosphere."
Forest Live sees big names
play in beauty spots around
the UK, with revenue from
ticket sales ploughed into
improving the woodland.
The Cannock Forest con-

The Cannock Forest concerts began in 2006 and have featured the likes of Erasure, Jools Holland, the Sugababes, Paul Weller, Keane, Simple Minds and UB40. Last year Will Young and Plan B performed to sell-out sudiences sell-out audiences.



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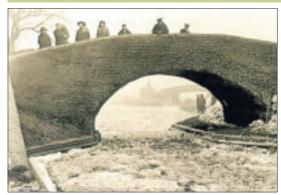
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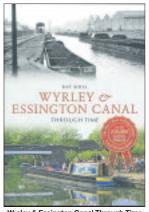
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Water way to chronicle the history of canal



Wyrley & Essington Canal Through Time

on the story of the Wyrley and Essington Canal in a new book that chronicles

its many changes.

Written by local history expert
Ray Shill, the book looks back at the landmarks, barges and people that made the canal the lifeblood of the Midlands coal trade.

of the Midlands coal trade.

The waterway, now a shadow of its former self, is brought back to life with more than 120 pictures spread over the 96 pages of Wyrley & Essington Canal Through Time.

Its story begins in 1792 when plans were granted by an Act of Parliament to connect the colleries at Essington and Wyrley Bank to Wolverhampton and Walsall.

The route, masterminded by

The route, masterminded by The route, masterminded by local businessmen James Hordern and Henry Vernon was brought in to use to compete with Bilston, Coseley and Tipton who were util-ising the Birmingham Canal Nav-

By Tom Mason

igations. The construction of the
canal helped a number of local
businessmen from bricklayers,
ston masons and carpenters as
well as more than 100 navies that
would make the cuts into the land
led by John Brawn.

Each was initially paid three
shillings a day but with men
leaving for other canals the addition of a free dinner on Easter
Monday plus a shilling of ale kept
many on.

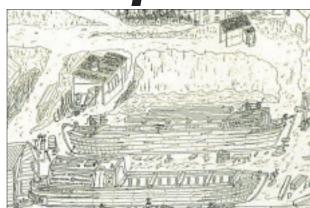
By January 1793 water had
been let in to the canal from local
streams and in 1794 it was
extended to connect it with the
Coventry canal system that served
Brownhills, Rushall and Goscote.

However it wasn't till the
heyday of the 1840s that business
really took off. By then much had
changed and many small branches
and offshoots serving the Black
Country's growing industries and
collieries had been dug, along with

a connection to the important Birmingham Navigation Canal. During this period millions of tonnes of coal were hauled in barges by horses, feeding the growing heart of Britain's expanding empire. An entire culture would grow up around the canal with families living and working in their boats all year round. Constant expansions and mergers where made along with improvements to the water supply including the construction of Chasewater and the building of more locks. For years the canal would be the dominant form of transport for Britain's heavy industry until the emergence of the trains and lorries. The branch would finally cease use in around 1964 and it soon fell into disrepair. The book ends as the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Trust continues to uncover more sections of the route.

the route

It is available at £14.99 through Amberley Publishing.



A sketch courtesy of Edward Paget of traditional barge building in Walsall



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What's On! Walsall

Shakespeare at the Manor House

the Manor House
TWO of Shakespeare's
best-known plays will be
performed in outdoor productions in the Black
Country this summer. The
Festival Players will stage
performances at the 13th
century Manor House
Museum in Hall Green
Road, West Bromwich.
On June 2, the company
will be performing A Midsummer Night's Dream,
while on August 4 it will be
Romeo and Juliet.
Visitors are asked to take
picnics. The gates will open
at 4.15pm. Tickets are
priced £12 for adults or £14
on the day, £10 concessions
or £12 on the day.

Harmony to reign

Harmony to reign

Harmony to reign at Christ the King WALSALL Harmonic Male Voice Choir are performing in Rushall on April 27 at Christ the King Church, in Lichfield Road, at 1.30pm. Tickets can be bought on the door or in advance by calling 01922 442956.

Also on April 27 at 7.30pm, The Wednesday Singers join Ruisi String Sextet at Walsall Central Methodist Church, Ablewell Street, for the organ restoration fund. Tickets £5, £4 concessions, including refreshments. Call 01922 613931.

A thirst for Hirst

AN extra 15,000 visitors have flocked to Walsall's New Art Gallery to see works by artist Damien Hirst. A total of 100,330 visited in the six months since the October 6 launch since the October 6 launch.

Pasha and Katya are hot stuff on the dancefloor

when a man who was born and bred in icy Siberia is feeling the chill, you know it must be brass monkeys out there.

The Strictly Come Dancing star is sheltering from the unseasonally bracing winds to speak about his new touring dance show which he's put together with another professional from the TV series, Katya Virshilas.

It's a monster tour which started last month, and runs through to the middle of June, taking in more than 60 venues. On May 11 it calls at the Cannock Prince of Wales Theatre.

By Carl Jones and I'm loving it, "says Pasha." and I'm loving it, "says Pasha." of the Strictly tour to training form the end of the Strictly tour to training form the end of the Strictly tour to training form the end of the Strictly tour to training form the end of the Strictly tour to training form the unseasonally bracing with a strictly tour to training form the unseasonally bracing winds to speak about his new touring dance show which he's put together with another professional from the TV series of the unseasonally bracing winds to speak about his new touring the unseasonally bracing winds to speak about his new touring the unseasonally bracing winds to speak about his new touring the unseasonally bracing with another professional from the TV series.

Theatre.
Pasha has become a firm

Pasha has become a firm the BBC show since joining Strictly's cast in 2011.

Busy

In that first year, he took Waterloo Road star Chelsee Healey all the way to the final – his Shrek costume was one of the most talked about in the series – and he about in the series – and he was one of the most talked about in the series – and he repeated the feat in the most recent series with Girls Aloud singer Kimberley Walsh. He recently danced with Dani Harmer on the Strictly live tour.

"It's been really, really busy. But the success of Strictly over the past few years has shown just how much British audiences

for this one. "On this tour, it is really good to get the chance to see people up close who have watched us on TV, and get the chance to interact with them, and have a bit of fun."

So, what can audience expect from this latest show? "Lots of beautiful Latin and hallroom dancing," says Pasha. "But not just that, we will also be inviting a local dance school onto the stage each night, giving the audience a chance to test their ence a chance to test their own Strictly skills, and own Strictly skills, and having a question and answer session. It's always interesting to hear the sort of things that people want to know!"
Tickets cost £20. Call 01543 578762.

Call



Grab your partner — Katya Virshilas and Pasha Kovalev get to grips as they prepare for their latest tour

WLCT

APRIL

PATSY CLINE

Wednesday 24th

7.30pm • £19.50

Extraordinary shows

by Paralympics pair

THE Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton will host shows featuring two of the stars of the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony.

Tomorrow evening (Friday) Helen Parlor, who worked as the assistant choreographer for the ceremony, brings her company Parlor Dance to the Wulfruna Street venue. At the Paralympics Helen choreographed thousands of volunteers to create a full length stadium show. Her company Parlor Dance will perform Close Distance, an acrobatic and thought-provoking show that explores our relationships with our neighbours.

Then on Thursday, May 23, double amputee dancer David Toole, who starred in the ceremony, will perform at the Arena Theatre in a dance duet called Extraordinary.

Hands

Hands

Toole provided one of the highlights of the opening ceremony, dancing on his hands and soaring above the stadium to perform an aerial dance in a wire harness. In the duet Extraordinary David Toole and his partner go on a journey of self-discovery in a funny, moving and poignant production, which explores challenges and misconceptions surrounding being a disabled dancer.

misconceptions surrounding being a disabled dancer. Close Distance takes place on at 8pm and Extraordinary takes place at 7.30pm. Tickets for both shows cost £9 full price and £7 concessions.

Tickets can be purchased online at the website www.arenatheatre.info, in person at the Arena Theatre box office on Wulfruna Street, or by calling 01902 321321.

ENTERTAINMENT

CANNOCK CHASE

Gripping night in the wrestling ring

A BIG night of profes-

A BIG night of professional wrestling is coming to Darlaston this month. Walsall wrestler Matt 'Mad Dog' Powell will be leading the ring action at Darlaston All Active Club, Willenhall Road, on April 27. Also on the bill will be Spanish high-flyer Jonny Thunder, French ace Kris Navaro and Dutch heavy-weight Tom Mason, Another is Shane Stevens, a wrestling star in the 1980s. Top of the bill is American Cameron Matthews. Tickets are £5 each or £17.50 for a family of four. Call 07938 000598.

Comic's eye view of great scientists

OT GREAT SCIENTISTS
COMEDIAN and science
enthusiast Robin Ince is
performing at The Public
in West Bromwich.
The stand-up will take a
comic look at his favourite
scientists — Charles
Darwin, Richard Feynman
and Aristotle. The Imporand Aristotle. The Impor-tance of Being Interested, is at the New Street venue on May 18. Tickets are £12 advance and £14 on the door, available from www.thepublic.com or by calling 0121 533 7161. Ince is a co-presenter of Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage with Brian Cox.

Murder mystery

ALDRIDGE Musical Comedy Society stage murder mystery Deduc-tion! at Leamore's Forest Arts Centre from April 25 to 27. Tickets cost £10. Book on 0845 111 2898.

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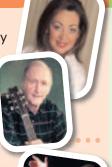
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 20.04.13

CHOICE



Michael Crawford

The Many Faces of Michael Crawford BBC2. 8.30pm

Michael Crawford will always be known, first and foremost, as bumbling Frank Spencer in 1970s sitcom Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. In the years that followed, some audience members found it difficult to take Crawford serious as any other character, which perhaps explains why he has largely steered clear of films and TV since. Instead, he's become a muchsought-after West End and Broadway star thanks to the likes of Barnum and The Phantom of the Opera This documentary takes a look back at Crawford's remarkable life and career

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. snooker: The World Champions 2.15 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

6.25 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

- 6.45 Doctor Who. Clara and the Doctor arrive at a haunted mansion on a desolate moor, where a gifted psychic and a professor are searching for a tortured spirit.
- tortured spirit.
 The National Lottery: Who
 Dares Wins. Nick Knowles
 hosts the game show in
 which two pairs of strangers
 team up, each battling to
 outdo the other by listing as
 much as they know about a
 given subject.
- given subject.

 8.20 The Voice UK. The fourth round of the chair-spinning singing contest, with coaches Tom Jones, Jessie J. Will. I am and Danny O'Donoghue aiming to bolster their teams.

 9.20 Casualty, Jeff is distressed when his father and sister are involved in a car accident.

accident.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary
Lineker presents highlights
of the latest Premier League of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Sunderland v Everton at the Stadium of Light and Queens Park Rangers v Stoke City at Loftus Road; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. 1.20 Film: Black Eagle. (1988) 2.55 Weatherview. 3.00 BBC News.

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.45 Film:
On the Beat (1962) 8.30 Film: A
Stitch Ilmine, (1963) A butcher's
Stitch Ilmine, (1963) A butcher's
Understanding assistant tries to cheer
up an orphan while visiting his
alling boss in hospital. Slapstick
comedy, starring Norman Wisdom.
10.00 Live Snooker: The World
Championship. 12.25 EastEnders.
(R) 2.15 Live Snooker: The World
Championship. 5.30 The Grat
British Sewing Bee. (R)
6.30 Flog II! Paul Martin and the
experts examine Liverpool's
rich musical heritage. (R)

- experts examine Liverpool's rich musical heritage. (R)
 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further coverage of the opening day at the Crucible Theatre. Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em Betty finally goes into labour.
 (R)
- The Many Faces of Michael Crawford. A profile of the crawford. A profile of the actor and singer best known for his portrayal of Frank Spencer in Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em and playing the title role in the first run of The Phantom of the Opera.

 DI XL. An extended edition of the quiz with a difference, with host Standan Examina.
- tne quiz with a difference, with host Stephen Fry asking Sandi Toksvig, Al Murray, Dara O Briain and Alan Davies questions on the topic of the Inland Revenue. (R)
- (A) 5 America in Primetime. New 5 series. Alan Yentob explores the social history of the US though its most popular TV
- 11.15 Richard Briers: A Tribute Documentary celebrating the life of the actor. (R)

 12.15 Snooker: The World Championship. 1.05 Snooker:

6.00 CITV: Jungle Junction. 6.15
Jungle Junction. 6.25 The Hive. (R)
6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan.
(R) 6.55 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05
Canimals. (R) 7.15 Canimals. (R)
7.25 Almost Naked Animals. (R)
7.35 Little And Canimals. (R)
7.35 Little Animals. (R)
7.36 Little Animals. (R)
7.37 Little Animals. (R)
7.38 Little Animals. (R)
7.39 Little Animals. (R)
7.30 Little Animals.

- News; Weather.
 6.00 New You've Been Framed!
 Forever. Comedian Harry Hill
 narrates a selection of
 surreal camcorder calamities
 and viewers' mobile phone
 footage.
- Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the second audition show, with another line-up of acts eager to win a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance.
- Variety Performance
 8.30 The Cube. A physiotherapist
 and a secondary school
 teacher try to complete a
 series of increasingly difficult
 tasks, hoping to win a
 jackpot of £250,000.
- jackpot of £250,000.

 9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show.
 The host welcomes Steve
 Coogan, the man behind
 Alan Partridge, to talk about
 his latest projects. Actress
 Saoirse Ronan also drops by
 and music superstar
 Will.i.am performs live.
- 10.30 ITV News: Weather 10.45 Film: Parenthood. (1989) Comedy drama, starring Steve Martin.
- 1.00 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

CHAMPACE 4.

Superbikes. 7. 05 Brighton
Superbik

- McCloud meets a couple transforming 5,000sq ft of derelict basement in west London but without proper architects' drawings, confusion kicks in almost from the start. Postponed from April 13. (R)
- from April 13. (R)
 Walking Through History,
 Tony Robinson goes on a
 four-day trek through the
 kintali region of the
 Highlands, examining the
 story of the early 1700s
 Jacobite uprisings along the
 way. Last in the series.
 Film: The Twilight Saga:
 New Moon. (2009)
 Flomantic fantasy sequel.
 Robert Patitinson.
- 11.45 Derren Brown Investigates: The Ghost Hunter. The illusionist explores the world of Lou Gentile. Last in the series. (R)
- 12.50 Film: Double Jeopardy. (1999) Thriller, starring Ashley Judd. 2.35 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.35 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.00 Inside Hollywood: 11.05 The Removal Men. (R) 12.05 Nature Shock: The Blacklip Shark Mystery. (R) 1.165 Robson's Extreme Fishinger by the Dozen. (2003) Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin. 4.00 Film: Apache. (1954) Western, starring Burt Lancaster. 5.45 5 New Weekend. 5.50 Film: Cahill, US Marshal. (1973) Western, starring John Wayne and George Kennedy. 7.40 Film: Rocky IV. (1985) The

George Kennedy.

7.40 Film: Rocky IV. (1985) The Italian Stallion steps into the ring against a seemingly invincible Russian boxer who caused the death of his friend. Drama, starring Sylvester Stallone and Dolph Lundgren.

Lundgren.

9.0 International Boxing, Tyson
Fury v Steve Cunningham.
Live coverage of the
heavyweight bout from the
heavyweight bout from the
heater at Madison Square
Garden in New York, USA.

11.00 Law & Order: Special
Victims Unit. Benson and
Stabler have to tread
covered the state of the covered the cov

wealthy couple and find themselves playing a game of politics and double bluff.

11.55 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show, with location reports and showbusiness news from behind the scenes in Tinseltown.

IINSeltown.
12.05 SuperCasino. 3.50 Wildlife
SOS. (R) 4.40 County Secrets. (R)
4.55 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.05
Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.15 Roary the
Racing Car. (R) 5.25 The Funky
Valley Show. (R) 5.35 Hana's
Helpline. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing
Car. (R)

DIGITAL

7.00 Merlin 8.30 Top Gear 9.30 Film: Tropic Thunder (2008) 11.10 Family Guy 11.55 American Dad! BBC Four

Listings supplied by Press Association

BBC Four 7.00 South Pacific 8.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways 9.00 Arne Dahl: Bad Blood – Part One 10.30 Young Guns Go for It 11.30 Top of the Pops: 1978

11V2
3.40 Funniest Ever You've Been
Framed! 4.45 Film: Curly Sue
(1991) 6.40 Film: Kangaroo Jack
(2003) 8.30 Britain's Got More
Talent! 9.30 Best of You've Been
Framed! 10.30 Celebrity Juice
11.20 Plebs 11.50 Britain's Got
Talent!

3.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 4.00 A Touch of Frost 6.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Lewis 11.00 A Touch of Frost

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kolkata Knight Riders v Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore v Rajasthan Royals. 40.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights 9.00 River Monsters 10.00 Film: Land of the Dead (2005) 11.15 From Panaldo to Honaldo

5.30 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Youngers 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 9.00 Film: Rush Hour 3 (2007) 10.50 The Big Bang Theory 11.50 The Cleveland Show

Film4
2.45 Zulu (1964) 5.30 My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) 7.20 The Man (2005) 9.00 Planes, Trains and Automobiles. (1987) Comedy, starring Steve Martin, John Candy and Michael McKean 10.45 Scary Movie (2000)

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MNA Media

SUNDAY'S TV 21.04.13

What's On!

CHOICE



Shaun Evans

ITV, 8pm

Fans of Colin Dexter's novels and John Thaw's series will be delighted by a story that manages to encompass some of the themes depicted in one of older Morse's best stories, Masonic Mysteries, Initially, the killer featured here seems to be your typical deranged lunatic, the kind who murder indiscriminately - until a

passion for opera, displayed in the way he elaborately stages his crimes - is revealed. Morse's musical knowledge may enable him to unlock the case's puzzling nature, which involves cryptic clues and an ever-growing body count.

6.00 Breakfast 7.00 Match of the Day (R) 8.30 London Marathon. 2.00 Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. 3.20 Points of View. 3.35 Lifeline. 3.45 Escape to the Country, (R) 4.15 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Pirk Highlights. 6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

Weather.

Weather.

Countryfile. The team heads to Calderdale in West Yorkshire, before visiting the village of Haworth – where the Bronte Iamily lived – and taking in the landscapes that inspired poet Ted Hughes.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Castle Coole, near Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, where items include a modern painting of an Irish landscape and a collection of modern painting of an Irish landscape and a collection of compacts. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations. 9.00 The Village. The villagers gather for their traditional annual wheelbarrow race –

unaware it coincides with the first day of the Battle of the Somme. John steals medicine when Mary falls ill.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City.

Manchester City.

11.25 Regional Programme.

11.55 Film: The Getaway. (1994)
A criminal couple are persuaded to take part in a robbery, but are forced to work with a treacherous former partner in crimee.

Baldwin and Kim Basinger.

1.45 Wastborgiew. 1.50 RBC Nawe

1.45 Weatherview. 1.50 BBC News.

BBC₂

6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.20 Film: The Outlaw. (1943) 8.15 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening. 9.30 The Seechgrove Garden. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) 12.00 European Championships. 2.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 6.00 Capast. The presenters seek

6.00 Coast. The presenters seek out the ideal locations to enjoy their personal passions, with Nick Crane attempting a mountaineering challenge on the Isle of Skye.

(R)
7.00 London Marathon
Highlights. Sonali Shah
presents action from one of
the world's most prestigious
road races, as elite athletes
and fun-runners negotiated
the 26.2-mile course.

8.00 Bill Bailey's Jungle Hero.
Part one of two. The
comedian follows in the
footsteps of Victorian naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace.

vvaliace.

Toughest Place to Be a Bin Man – The Return. London dustman Wilbur Ramirez heads back to Jakarta, Indonesia

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Travel. Another themed selection from the show's

10.30 It's Kevin. Including music by Crab Marley.

by Urab Marley.

11.00 Snooker: The World
Championship. Highlights of
the second day's play in
Sheffield.

11.50 Snooker: World Championships Extra 1.50 Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) 2.50 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV- Jungle Junction. 6.15
Jungle Junction. 6.25 The Hive. (R)
6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dain.
(R) 6.55 Dino Dain. 7.69 Colombia.
(R) 6.55 Dino Dain. 7.69 Colombia.
(R) 7.30 Colombia.
(R) 7.30 Colombia.
(R) 7.30 Colombia.
(R) 7.30 Country House Sunday.
(R) 7.30 Country House Sunday.
(R) 7.30 Country House Sunday.
(R) 11.20 ITV News: Weather.
11.26 ITIV News: Weather.
11.25 ITIV News: Weather.
11.25 Film: Columbia. Mind Over Mayhem. (1974) 12.55 You've
Been Framed! (R) 1.25 Britain's
Got Talent. (R) 2.55 Food Glorious
Food. (R) 3.55 Film: Jurassic Park.
(1933)

198 egional Programme;
Weather:
6.30 ITV News; Weather:
6.30 ITV News; Weather:
6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the gene Mulhern hosts the gene stephen of the step

first time.

Endeavour. Morse meets his intellectual match when a serial killer keeps himself one step ahead of the law and leaves cryptic messages to goad the police. Starring Shaun Evans.

10.00 Perspectives: Jonathan Ross: Alfred Hitchcock – Made in Britain. The life and career of the celebrated

11.00 ITV News: Weather 11.0011V News; Weather.
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.
12.15 The Store. 2.15 British
Superbike Championship
Highlights. 3.10 Monk. (R) 4.40
ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy
Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

(2010) Premiere. An American youngster living in China falls foul of bullies, until a kung fu master teaches him to defend himself. Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackle Chan.

Jackie Chan.

Jackie Chan.

Max Payne. (2008) A

tormented cop searches for
his wife's killer while
investigating a series of
murders connected to a
hallucinatory drug. Action
hriller, starring Mark
Wahlberg and Mila Kunis.

Wahlberg and Mila Kunis.

1.10 Film: Enemy at the Gates.
(2001) Second World War drama,
starring Jude Law. 2.25 Tumult.

2.40 Inside Nature's Giants: The
Big Cats. The anatomy of big cats.
(R) 3.35 Come Dine with Mc-Tot of the strangers from south Devo nounpet to 1 host the perfect of the p

CHANNEL 5 DIGITAL 6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fiff and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.45 Chloe's Closet. 6.55 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.15 Animal Antics. (R) 7.29 Nodoy in Toyland. (R) 7.35 Milo Mao. 180 Milo March Montey. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Milkshakel Show Songs.

Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.

(R) 8.20 Milkshakel Show Songs.

(R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R)

8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15

Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.45

Jelly Jamm. (R) 10.00 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 10.05

Power Rangers: Super Samurai.

(R) 10.40 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.10 Inside Hollywood.

11.15 Trauma Doctors. (R) 12.15

Cowboy Bullders. (R) 11.15 Rolf's Animal Clinic. (R) 2.07 Him. 1.15

Film: Little Women. (1994)

6.30 5 News Weekend.

6.35 Films: The Filh Element.

(1997) SG-Hi adventure.

(1998) Jenes Weekend.

9.00 Once Upon a Time. Snow and Ernma try to find a portal adventure.

10.00 Person of Interest.
10.55 Film: Blood Work. (2002)
Crime thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood and Anjelica Huston.

1.05 SuperCasion 3.55 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.45 County Secrets. (R) 4.45 County Secrets. (R) 4.45 Hansk Helpline. (R) 5.10 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.15 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.35 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

BBC Three 7.00 World's Craziest Fools 7.30 Live MotoGP 9.00 The Voice UK 10.00 Barely Legal Drivers 11.00 Family Guy 11.45 American Dad! BBC Four

DBC FOUR
7.00 The Century That Wrote Itself
8.00 The Review Show 9.00 Arena:
aka Norman Parkinson 10.00 Secret
Life of Rockpools 11.00 Motor
Racing at the BBC: That Petrol
Emotion 11.30 Exotic Pop at the
BBC

ITV2
3.45 You've Been Framed! 4.15
Britain's Got Talent 5.45 Britain's
Got More Talent 6.45 Film: The
Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon
Temperor (2008) 9.00 Film: Shaun
of the Dead (2004) 11.00 Celebrity
Julice 11.50 Film: Kiss Kiss Bang
Bang (2005)
ITV3

3.55 Film: Agatha Christie's Murde in Three Acts (1986) 5.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Film: Hamlet (1990) 10.45 Blue Murder

ITV4
10.45 Live British Touring Car
Championship 6.00 Police, Camer
Action! 7.00 The Sweeney 8.00
Premiership Rugby Union 9.00
Cycling 10.00 Indian Premier
League Cricket 11.00 Film: 8 Mile
(2002)

3.05 Charmed 4.05 Revenge 5.00 How I Met Your Mother 5.30 New Girl 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 The Mindy Project 8.00 Film: Bid Wars (2008) 9.45 Derren Brown: Something Wicked This Way Comes 11.20 2 Broke Girls 11.50 The Big Bang Theory

Film4 2.50 Rear Window (1954) 5.15 Just Wright (2010) 7.10 Knights of the South Bronx (2005) 9.00 Semi-Pro (2008) Comedy, starring Will Ferrell. 10.50 The Full Monty (1997)

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What's On!

Film Choices

Pistol Whipped, Channel 5, 11pm

An alcoholic former cop is offered a tempting deal by a An alcoholic former cop is offered a tempting deal by a mysterious old man – if he assassinates a powerful gangster, all his gambling debts will be paid. But as he prepares to carry out his deadly mission, he begins to suspect his employer is hiding something from him. Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal. (2008)

TUESDAY

Air Force One, BBC1, 11.05pm

The American president is forced to take drastic measures to save his family when their plane is hijacked by Russian terrorists demanding the release of a jailed radical general. Meanwhile, the vice president tries to manage the crisis from Washington and has to decide whether to shoot the aircraft down. Action thriller, starring Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman, Glenn Close, Dean Stockwell and William H Macy. (1997)

WEDNESDAY

Munich, BBC1, 11.05pm
After the killing of 11 Israeli coaches and athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Israeli prime minister Golda Meir sanctions a team of assassins to slav the Golda Weil sanddins a team of assassins or say the Palesthinian terrorists responsible. But as the death toll rises and each elimination brings yet more reprisals, the this squad's leader begins to question his orders. Steven Spielberg's thriller, with Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Ciaran Hinds and Geoffrey Rush. (2005)



The Specialist, Channel 5, 10pm

An explosives expert is reluctantly persuaded out of retirement by the charms of a vengeful woman bent on destroying the gang that murdered her parents. He carries out a series of assassinations with expert precision, but finds himself assassinations with expert precision, but links initiation caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse when one of his targets hires a former colleague to track him down. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone, James Woods, Rod Steiger and Eric Roberts. (1994)

2 Fast 2 Furious, ITV, 10.35pm

A disgraced former cop is arrested by the FBI for illegal street racing, but his one-time colleagues offer him freedom in exchange for going on an undercover mission. Teaming up with an old racing friend and a customs official, he has to infiltrate and bring down a drug-trafficking operation. Thriller sequel, with Paul Walker reprising his role from The Fast and the Furious alongside Tyrese Gibson, Eva Mendes and Cole Hauser. (2003)

Pick of the Week

Dramatic series draws to a great conclusion

o, have you figured out whodunit yet? Usually, the resolution of a whodunit is guessable, especially one that has lasted several weeks in which each suspect has been examined and dismissed (or otherwise) throughout the run.

So, have you figured out whodunit yet? Usually, the resolution of a whodunit is guessable, especially one that has lasted several weeks in which each suspect

several weeks in which each suspect has been examined and dismissed (or otherwise) throughout the run. But not Broadchurch – it's been a different breed altogether, and thank goodness for that. Too many dramas these days have been made to appeal to viewers with short attention spans; they're smart, snappy and scenes last about 30 seconds.

about 30 seconds.

However, this eight-part series from acclaimed writer Chris Chibnall has been a slow-burner, with the patience of audience members rewarded with one of the most gripping plots we've seen in a long while.

So far we've learned that Danny Latimer has been murdered and that most of the people in the town of Broadchurch, where he lived, have

omething to hide and so could, possibly have bumped him off in an attempt to keep their secret under wraps for ever

And that's about it really – although we're just as keen to find out what's really wrong with DI Alec Hardy, the detective in charge of the case, as we are the identity of the killer.

But no matter how intriguing the But no matter how intriguing the storyline, the programme just wouldn't be worth tuning in for if it wasn't for the acting, which has been of a uniformly high standard. At the centre of it all is Jodie Whitaker as Beth, Danny's grief-stricken mother.

stricken mother.

The 30-year-old Huddersfield-born actress is making a habit of playing young mums – in BBC Two's Royal Wedding, she was a woman who'd had a baby at 15, and she's in the same situation here.

No doubt her next role will be very different, but there's no denying she's the heart and soul of this series. And what's particularly interesting is that during filming, neither she nor the rest of the cast knew who the killer was.

"I only got the first episode for the audition and I found that quite nerve wracking, not knowing where it was

young, site says. Dut that a featily great thing to do because it keeps you anxious the whole way through. It keeps you guessing and makes you not trust any of the other characters; which you wouldn't do in that environment.

"That first episode was heart-breaking "That first episode was heart-breaking to read, but you met so many interesting characters. When I came on board, David Tennant, Olivia Colman, Vicky McClure and Andrew Buchan were already attached. Every week, new names were signed to it which was really exciting to think you would be working with them on an ensemble piece.

"Not a lot of dramas are ensemble and there are about 20 of us."

But it hasn't just been the human cast that Jodie has enjoyed being around – the Dorset scenery has almost been a character itself.

"I always enjoy filming on location as there is that feeling that you can be in it the whole time; you are staying away, you don't have to deal with normal life when you get home from work, so it's been a great experience."

It's been great watching it too – here's hoping the last episode lives up to



Jodie Whittaker stars in Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild Channel 5, 9pm

Normally, when people on TV talk about wanting to quit the rat race and lead a simpler life, they mean they want a period cottage in a county village. However, the people in this new series whater I newest, in the people in this new series have taken a more extreme approach, setting up home in some of the world's most remote locations. Ben Fogle is on a mission to experience their extraordinary lifestyles, and in the opening edition, he's journeying to Australia's Great Barrier Reef to live with David Glasheen. The former businessman lost \$10million in the stock market crash of 1987, and with the last of his savings, he bought the lease on part of the 100-acre, volcanic Restoration Island, where he and his dog Quasi are the sole residents

BBC1, 9pm

This Pentonville-set fly-on-the-bars doc might be just the antidote after a soap-heavy Monday diet of EastEnders, Emmerdale and Corrie. As cameras return to the north London facility holding more than 1.000 male prisoners, we meet Mick, an inmate whose crimes have led to years of incarceration. There's a chance he may wind up breaking the law unless he has proper housing once released. We also get an insight into the life of Senol, who is trying to forget his violent past and build a better future with his fiancee. However, a battle with the bottle could be his biggest hurdle. Some fascinating entences from those doing long sentences.

TUESDAY The Syndicate BBC1, 9pm

They say money can't buy you love, and in Mandy's case, it can't buy you freedom or happiness either. Even with £14million sitting in nappiness etitler. Even with 5 (4) miles 1 (4) miles in a worse state than ever. Mandy has bound and gagged her abusive husband Steve in the cellar, bitter colleague Helen is upping her blackmail demands, and the nurse is facing the distinct possibility of spending a stint in prison. On a happier note, there's love in the air for Tom and Natalie at their housewarming party, and the couple make a big announcement. Perhaps we will see some good coming from the lottery win after all, as Kay Mellor's ensemble drama

WEDNESDAY

BBC2, 8pm

Don't berate yourself for being lazy because you can't bear to prise yourself away from the sofa to face the outdoors thanks to the lacklustre weather: that's what this gem of a series is there for – to bring the stories of our coasts to the comfort of our living rooms. This week, the team looks at stories linked to

with Nick Crane heading off in the direction of the Firth of Forth to investigate the 'soliton'. He wants to learn more about the rare type of wave that seems to travel endlessly without losing energy or breaking up.

Meanwhile, Miranda Krestovnikoff reveals how salmon fend off dehydration by migrating to saltwater.

Great Bear Stakeout BBC1, 9pm

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise - because spring has sprung in Alaska, and the grizzly bears are emerging from hibernation. In this two-part documentary series, comedian and actor Billy Connolly narrates fascinating footage of the

creatures venturing out into the wilderness for the first time in months, as they are thrust together in a frenzy of feed fighting and mating. Tonight's opening edition introduces us to first-time mum Parsnip and her cub, Pushki. Parsnip will have a long road ahead of her as she fights for her cub's

survival in one of the harshest climates in the world - where only half of bear cubs make it through the Ben Earl: Trick Artist, Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY BBC1, 8pm

For the past eight years, Gregg Wallace and John Torode have been reminding us how "Cooking doesn't get much tougher than this!", though troops making beans on toast in a war zone might beg to differ. You know the drill by now: hundreds entered, but only a handful of cooks were given a chance to prove their worth. So, who can stand the heat and who will be forced to leave the kitchen? That remains to be seen, but as 2012 winner Shelina Permallo or aised the bar rather high, we do know it will take steely resolve for the eventual finalists to transform their ideas from a concept into a mouthwatering reality.

Ben Earl: Trick Artist

Channel 4, 9pm
Magic is enjoying something of a boom at the moment, having been absent from our screens for a time it's now bigger than ever thanks to the likes of Dynamo. Ben Earl is the latest in a glut of exciting new talents, and his four-part series looks set to be something special. Each edition focuses on one topic, beginning with crime, upon which Earl offers an array of bewildering, bedazzling illusions, sleight-of-hand tricks and cunning deceptions. He invites a group of people to join him as he undertakes his feats, which tonight include a bullet-catch a trick so dangerous it's only attempted by the best, and which, legend has it, has claimed the lives of at least 12 performers.



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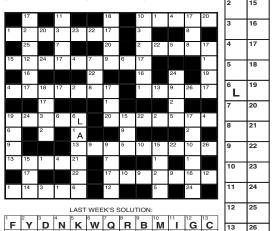
Brain Gym

No.217

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

P S T H Z O X L E U V J A



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- 6. Unusually angered
- 7. Agree to advance (3,2)
- 9. Such remarks may still be pointed! (5)
- 10. Decorations I prohibit in small thoroughfares (7)
- 12. For many road-users, they provide a stern outlook (4,7)
- 14. Patient attendants who treat only employees? (5,6)
- 18. He won't make certain advances
- 19. It may be sung in a lovely rich baritone voice (5)
- 21. People count on them to send them to sleep! (5)
- 22. Exercise done by a prisoner (7)

- 1. Single unfronted fireplace (5)
- who may keep watch for you (6)
- 3. Catch a number up (3)
- 4. Free beer held up and put down again (6)
- 5. Common knowledge (3-4) 8. Larrive upset, for a
- sunny holiday? (7) 11. A good one will be true to type (7)
- 13. Wasting a prize (7)
- 15. Possibly aifted young scholars may be told not to! (6)
- 16. Rarely seen part of the French President's residence (6) 17. Not much to steal
- (5) 20. Don't go without a
- pen (3)

Quick Clues:

- 6. Nominate (7)
- 7. Lesser (5)
- 9. Afterwards (5)
- 10. Pad (7)
- 12. Booby prize (6.5)
- 14. Go separate ways (4,7) 18. Horse-soldiers (7)
- 21 Performed (5)
- 22. Regulated (7)

- 1. Utter (5)
- 2. Spanish dance (6)
- 3. Finish (3)
- 4. Chessman (6)
- 5. A wise man (7)
- 8. Vegetables (7) **11.** Postpone (7)
- 13. Poise (7)
- 15. Journey (6) 16. Figure (6)
- 17. Awry (5)
- 20. Skill (3)

Sudoku

		6			8			7
2			5	7		1		
	1				9		4	
		1		8			9	2
	8			6		7	1	
9	5			3				
	2		7				3	1
		8		5	3			6
7			8			2		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Hostile act; 7 Adder; 8 Frantic; 10 Knock-out; 11 Area; 13 Absent; 15 Amorai; 17 Tear; 18 Imprison; 21 Regatta; 22 Liege; 23 Better half. Down: 1 Hydro; 2 Striking; 3 Influx; 4 Edam; 5 Caterer; 6 Taskmaster; 9 Challenger; 12 Umbrella; 14 Spangle; 16 Impair; 19 Sheat; 20 Stet. QUICK - Across: 1 Similitude; 7 Clear; 8 Support; 10 Overseer; 11 Mean; 13 Nectar; 15 Grieve; 17 Arid; 18 Toboggan; 21 Tip-ced; 22 Amiss; 23 Ingredient. Down: 15 Sleve; 2 Marksman; 3 Lessen; 4 Type; 5 Diocese; 6 Accountant; 9 Tendemess; 12 Arrogate; 14 Crispin; 16 Sordid; 19 Guilt; 20 Pour.





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Miller Homes will be helping potential homebuyers on all stages of the property ladder – via the Help to Buy sche

More assistance for a range of homebuyers

HOUSING developer Miller Homes will be helping potential homebuyers on all stages of the property ladder make their next move following the launch of the Government's new Help

Miller Homes will be offering the scheme, which is now available to home movers as well as first time buyers, at its developments across the

country.

Help to Buy will offer assistance for buyers who only have a small deposit of around five per cent through the provision of a 20 per cent equity loan from

the qualifying criteria, meaning buyers only need to secure up to a 75 per cent mortgage from a bank or building

society.

This is an extension of the existing FirstBuy scheme and applies to new build properties up to the value of £600,000 in England.

Initiative

Chris Endsor, chief executive of Miller Homes, said: "The introduction of this initiative provides another welcome boost to the housing market

by offering more help for those who only have a small deposit. "Increasing the supply of low deposit mortgages to a wider range of people, including those who are looking to move up the ladder as well as first time buyers, will have a positive impact on the market overall."

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Lot 41 18-19 Worcester Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Investment
Lot 42 7 Marley Heights, Colwall Walk, Acocks Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 43 242 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 44 1 Albion Cottages, Birmingham Road, Water Orton	Residential Vacant
Lot 45 20 Ellesmere Road & 41 Wood Street, Shrewsbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 46 22 Henwood Road, Compton, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 47 42 Nova Croft, Coventry	Residential Vacant
Lot 48 3 Berrington Road, Leamington Spa	Commercial Vacant
Lot 49 50 Harman Road, Wylde Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 50 28 Regent Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 51 58 Hospital Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 52 110 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 53 Land to the rear of 9 Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth, Shropshire	Land
Lot 54 862 Pershore Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 55 98 Stafford Street, Walsall	Commercial Vacant
Lot 56 164 Rutland Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 57 126-126A Lea Village, Kitts Green, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 58 Flat 9, 3 Colton Square, Leicester	Residential Investment
Lot 59 Flat 21, 3 Colton Square, Leicester	Residential Investment
Lot 60 Flat 25, 3 Colton Square, Leicester	Residential Investment
Lot 61 Former Garage Site Church Green, Bilston, Wolverhampton	Land
Lot 61A Land at Hospital Lane (Rear of 59b Mason Street) Coseley	Land
Lot 62 23C Church Lane, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant
Lot 63 Unit 134 Middlemore Industrial Estate, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 64 28 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	
Lot 65 62 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	NOT BEING OFFERED
Lot 66 53 Park Road, Woodsetton, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 67 Unit 23 The Business Centre, James Road, Tyseley	
Lot 68 83 Wheatley Close, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield	
Lot 69 98 Solihull Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham	

waisan Courc	TO SEE NOW!
Lot 70 57 Lyndon Road, Solihull, West Midlands	
Lot 71 73 Lyndon Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 72 164 Bridge Street West, Newtown, BirminghamDev	relopment/Redevelopment
Lot 73 28 Glebe Farm Road, Stechford, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 74 24 Hay Green Lane, Bournville, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 75 1 Little Park, Quinton, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 76 39 North Street, Dudley	
Lot 77 Regent Road, Hanley, Stoke on Trent	Commercial Vacant
Lot 78 42 Dolphin Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 79 59 Coleshill Street, Fazeley, Tamworth	Residential Vacant
Lot 80 39 Alexander Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 81 10 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall	
Lot 82 16 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 83 51 Gallery Square, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 84 57 Gallery Square, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 85 17 Tyber Drive, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 86 31 Hampton Court Road, Harborne, Birmingham	
Lot 87 7 Dunstall Lane, Wolverhampton	
Lot 88 Former Garage Court Adj. 44 Surrey Crescent, West Bromwi	
Lot 89 224 Norton Lane, Earlswood, Solihull	Residential Vacant
Lot 90 49 Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant
Lot 91 209 Antrobus Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 92 Methodist Church Premises, 54 St Michaels Road	
Pitshill, Stoke on Trent	
Lot 93 Garage Site off James Watt Street, West Bromwich	
Lot 94 127 Bushbury Lane, Wolverhampton	
Lot 95 122 Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton	
Lot 96 15 Ash Road, Saltley, Birmingham	
Lot 97 20 Stockton Court, Mason Street, Wolverhampton	
Lot 98 1 Hodson Avenue, Willenhall	
Lot 99 122 Oldknow Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	
Lot 100 21 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich Residential	Vacant
Lot 101 Flat 2, 36 Wordsworth Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	
Lot 102 41 Brierley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich	
Lot 103 30 Twickenham Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Residential Vacant



0121 233 5046

Home of Property

Six-bedroom house to let

this new-build six bedroom town house situated on Sandwell Road in a popular area of Handsworth Wood.

area of Handsworth Wood.

The property comprises of two spacious reception rooms – one with a patio door looking out to the landscaped garden – through to modern fitted kitchen with a range of units and built-in appliances, also benfitting from a breakfast table on the side, clockroom and downstairs WC.

The first floor briefly comprises four bedrooms with ample amounts of space for wardrobes – one having en suite with shower unit – and a family bathroom.

Executive

A second floor consists of two double bedrooms and shower room. All bedrooms are neutrally decorated with cream carpets throughout. This property is an executive property ideal for the professional family. The rear garden is landscaped with patio area, access to the garage. The property benefits from CCTV camera system to add to the security. Available to rent for £1,000pcm, the agent says this is a must see for the professional tenants. See whyp.co.uk for more details.



Accommodation at the home in Sandwell Road, Handsworth Wood, is over three floors



The modern fitted kitchen comes with a range of wall and base units



One of the six bedrooms at the family property that is available to rent

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THE CRESCENT, WALSALL

- Detached House
- Dining Room Garage, GCH, DG



ARUNDEL ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms Lounge / Dining Room
- Bathroom, DG & GCH
- Utility Room, Garage

EPC current rating D
£650pcm



CROWN LOFTS, WALSALL

- Penthouse Flat
- Open Plan Lounge, Dining &



TAME STREET EAST, WALSALL

- Semi-Detached House
- Three Redrooms
- Kitchen, DG & GCH
- Driveway, Gardens



SEGUNDO ROAD, WALSALL

- Semi-Detached Property
- Lounge, Kitche Dining Room & Bathroom
- DG & GCH
- EPC Current Rating C



- Terraced House
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- GCH, Rear Garden

£400pcn





- Ground Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Lounge / Kitchen
- Bathroom, Storage Cupboard Electric Heating, UPVC DG
- EPC current rating C £400pcm



- Two Bed Terrace
- Lounge & Lobby
- Dining Room & Kitchen
 Bathroom & Garden GCH & DG



WEST BROMWICH ROAD, WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Terraced
- Lounge, Kitchen, GCH
- Downstairs Bathroom
 Dining Room, New Carpets & Doors
 Re-Decorated Throughout
- EPC current rating D

£395pcm



- Mid Terraced Property
- Three bedrooms Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Current EPC rating E





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#Home of Property Brits come clean on the state of homes



MILLIONS of Brits reckon their home is a 'pigsty' because they are just too busy to

clean, according a new study.

Researchers have found that seven in 10 of us are unable to find the time to take care of everyday chores such as vacuuming, dusting and cleaning the bathroom.

Fifty-seven per cent of people even admitted they have times when they would describe their home as a 'pigsty' because they never have a charge to tidy it us.

times when they would describe their home as a 'pigsty' because they never have a chance to tidy it up.

More than one in five have even refused to let people into their home because it was in such a mess.

A spokesperson for cleaning product firm Spontex, which commissioned the research, said: "We are leading busier lives than ever and when you are juggling so much, it's inevitable that something has to give.

Chunks

inevitable that something has to give.

Chunks

"And it seems that for many, staying on top of their household chores and keeping their home spotless is what they are letting fall by the wayside. But this means that many Brits aren't happy with the state of the home, and it's alarming to see that so many even have times when they would describe their home as being like a pigsty.

"Cleaning can be done in small chunks which makes it much more manageable to fit everything in and around your everyday life. If you are struggling to fit the chores in, rather than doing a big clean once in a while, running the vacuum round one day and then cleaning the bathrooms the next can make life a lot easier."

The study of 2,000 people found that 63 per cent do not think their home is as clean as they would like it to be, with half of those blaming this on being too busy to clean. Another 39 per cent simply do not like cleaning while 21 per cent do not think they are very good at it. Almost a quarter say they have got better things to do than worry about the state of their house.

Forty-two per cent have never cleaned their home from top to bottom, and even those who did had to admit it was an average of almost five months since they last did this.

More than one in 10 owned up to not cleaning their bathroom for at least a month nor having done any ironing for a year.

One in 20 had not washed clothes and one in 10 had not

One in 20 had not washed clothes and one in 10 had not got the vacuum out for a month or more. Almost one in 10 had not used a duster for at least six months, while one in 20 admitted it had been at least a year since mopping a floors. More than one in 20 owned up to never cleaning their windows.

windows.

Researchers also revealed that a third of people's homes are such a mess that visitors or friends have commented on the state of it. More than half have rowed with their other half about the mess.

It also emerged that 73 per cent of people regularly shove things under cushions or behind sofas, so any clutter is out of sight when someone page in

While 60 per cent have shut doors to certain rooms so guests cannot see the mess. Despite this, 90 per cent claim they consider themselves to be a tidy person.



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FARBROOK WAY, WILLENHALL bed Semi On The Popular mer Hayes Estate Having Entrance ray, Spacious Lounge, Breakfast en, Three Bedrooms, Fitted oom, Majority UPVC D/Glazing, ating, Detached Garage, sed Rear Com-

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SWEET BRIAR LANE, WILLENHAL fell Presented Three Bed Ser omprising Of Entrance Hallwa ounge, Spacious Kitchen Din-onservatory, Three Bedrooms

£139,995



PERTH RD, WILLENHALL £139,995

ALBION RD, W-HALL

£149,950



COPPICE LANE, WILLENHALI Utility, Groundfloor vv.o, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage & Driveway. MUST VIEW

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Well Presented Three/Four Bed Semi Detached Property Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Playroom/Bed Four, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Itility Room, Ground loor Shower Room, Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom 5/Heating And D/Glazing, Front And Rear Gardens. Viewings Are Highly Recommended!





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■ Family Bathroom & Separate
Shower Room

■ Underground Games Room

■ Uility Room

■ Conservatory

■ Sorry NO DHSS or Pets

- - £1,100 PCM

Walsall
Belgrave Walk

• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached

• Two Reception Rooms
• Fitted Kitchen●Front & Rear Gardens
• D.Glazing & G.C.Heating●Garage
• DHSS Accepted●No Pets or Smokers









Willenhall
Dorchester Road

• Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Lounge®Dining Room®Fitted Kitchen
• Double glazing®Gas central heating
• Conservatory®Bathroom®Rear Garden
• Front Driveway®SORRY NO DHSS OR



Bloxwich
Tintern Crescent

Three Bedroom End Terrace
Lounge Kitchen/Diner
Family Bathroom Graden
Front Garden with Off Road Parking
D.Glazing Heating DHSS Accepted



Bloxwich

- Large Kitchen/Diner with Integrated Appliances
- Three Reception Rooms
 Master Bedroom with Walk-In



£495 PCM



£485 PCM



Bloxwich
Nursery Road

Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
Lounge®/kitchen®Bathroom
Downstairs W.C.

D.Glazing & C. Heating
Front & Rear Gardens®DHSS Accepted



£475 PCM



Willenhall

Willenhall
Kingfisher Court

Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment

Secure Entrance Gates Lounge

Modern Kitchene Bathroom

Allocated Parking Gas Central Heating

Double Glazing SORRY NO DHSS

£475 PCM

£450 PCM

£425 PCM



Walsall
Jane Lane Close

Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
Loungo@Kitchen/Diner

Family Bathroom@Rear Garden
Gas Central Heating@Front Garden
Off Road Parking@DHSS Accepted

Bloxwich
West Street

• Two Bedroom Terrace
• Lounge®Two Reception Rooms
• New Kitchen(Family Bathroom
• Double Glazing®Gas Central Heating
• Rear Garden®DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM

£495 PCM



Walker Road
Blakenall Heath

Two Bedroom Apartment

Lounge/Kitchen

Family Bathroom

Gas Central Heating

Double Glazing

Double Slazing

£450 PCM



Blakenhall Heath
Church Walk,Parish Court
Two Bedroom Apartment
Double Glazing
Gas Central Heating
Secure Entrance

Church Walk, Farish Court

• Two Bedroom Apartment
• Double Glazing
• Gas Central Heating
• Secure Entrance
• Off Road Parking
• DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Walsali
Gurney Road
Two Bedroom End Terrace
Lounge®Kitchen
Bathroom
Downstairs W.C®Garden
Garage®DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Walsall
Spring Court

• Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
• Lounge-Shower Room
• Itted Kitchen
• Private Parking
• Shared Gardens- Garage

£450 PCM

£440 PCM



Iwo Bedroom Mid-Terrace Lounge-Dining Room-Kitchen Ground Floor Shower Room Rear Garden-Gas Central Heating



Bloxwich
Millfield Avenue

Two Bedroom Flat
Lounge KitchenBathroom
Separate W.C.
Gas Central Heating
Communal Grounds

£450 PCM





Two Bedroom Terrace Lounge●Modern Fitted Kitchen Family Bathroom●Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating●Off Road Parking Rear Garden●DHSS Accepted

£450

£400 PCM

Walsall
Lime Street

■ Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
■ Two Beception Rooms
■ Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
■ Rear Garden●Double Glazing
■ Gas Central Heating●Sorry NO DHSS

£450 PCM



/alsall
eermead Court
Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
En-Suite Shower Room@Bathroom
Gas Central Heating@Double Glazing
Allocated Parking@Sorry No DHSS



Leamore
West Street
Two Bedroom Terrace
Two Reception Rooms
Lounge-Kitchen
Rear Garden
DHSS Accepted



Walsall Waterfront Way

£400 PCM



Bloxwich Harrison Street

£400PCM

Walsan Cairns Street



Bloxwich
High Street

One Bedroom Flat
Large Lounge
Kitchen
Large Bathroom
Double Glazing
Electric Heating
DHSS Accepted £400 PCM



Hillary Street ● First Floor Two B Fitted Kitchen
 Family Bathroom
 DHSS Accepted















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Double Glazing
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FEATURE PROPERTY



- Much improved three bedroom detached bungalow
- · Lounge · Superb breakfast kitchen, Utility
- Double glazing, gas central heating
- Spacious bathroom Garage & driveway
- Established rear gardens Energy Rating 'E' £195,000

MANAGER'S CHOICE







- Much Improved Semi Detached
- Three bedrooms
- · Lounge & dining room
- Extended refitted kitchen
- · Luxury shower room
 - · Double glazing · Gas CH
 - · Garage & carport
- Rear garden Energy 'D'

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



- Pleasantly Appointed Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Popular Location Three Bedrooms Energy Rating 'D'
- Lounge & Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Bathroom Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens Garage & Drive £139,950

MARKET APPRAISALS 01902 631151 us now on



Essington

- Glazing Garage Drveway sergy Rating 'D'

£229,950



Summer Hayes

- Glazing Energy Rating 'F' y Rear Gardens
 - £142,500



- - Glazing Gardens Energy Rating TB^Q





New Invention

- Rugeley Avenue Town House Popular Location rith Dining Area Energy rating 'I Lobby/Utility/Wc

£95,000



£92,000



BENTLEY, WALSALL





Forum new 4 deciron movern detached residence
 Lounge/dining room = Conservatory
 Well appointed breakfast kirtchen = Bathroom & en-suite
 Gas central heating = UPVC double glazing
 Garage And driveway = PART EXCHANGE AVAILABLE



Coppice Farm

ns aling • Energy Rating 'E'



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WILLENHALL Modern detached • 3 bedrooms • En-suite • Bathroom Spacious lounge & Dining room • Kitchen • Conservatory Garage, Drive, Gardens • Gas CH, Dble Glaz • Energy 'C' £199,950

COPPICE FARM

- Modern style link detached 3 bedrooms
- UPVC d/glazing Gas CH Two Receptions Fitted kitchen Refitted bathroom Rear garden Energy 'D' £140,000

WILLENHALL

- Much Improved Period Mid Terrace Three Bedrooms 2 Receptions - Newly Fitted Kitchen - Re Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas CH No Chain Energy 'D' £89.950 Branches also at:

£174,500 **COPPICE FARM**

NEW INVENTION (OFF SNEYD LANE

Modern style detached - Four bedrooms - 2 Receptions Gas central heating - Breakfast kitchen & downstairs wo Garage & off road parking • Rear Garden • Energy 'D' OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £189,995

PORTOBELLO

Traditional Semi Detached • Three Bedrooms • Lounge Refitted Dining Kitchen - Refitted Bathroom - Gardens Drive • No Chain • Gas CH • Double Glaz • Energy 'D' £105,000

WILLENHALL

- Superb Ground floor apartment Two bedrooms
 Open plan lounge/kitchen Bathroom, Parking Space
- Double glazing Central heating Energy Rating 'C' £85,000 NO CHAIN



£162,950

I Semi Detached Bungalow • No Ch. Through Lounge / Dining Room Kitchen • 2 Bedrooms • Bathroom ; Driveway • Rear Gardens • Energ lazing • Gas Central Heating System





£159,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN WILLENHALL

NEW INVENTION

• Traditional style 3 Bedroom mid terrace • Energy 'D' • Lounge • Refitted dining kitchen • Ground flr Shower Rm • En-suite wc • Part d/glaz • Part Gas CH • Drive • Gardens £90,000

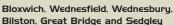
• Dormer Link detached bungalow • Two / Three Bedroom • Energy 'F' • Two receptions • Bathroom • Gas CH

Double glazing • 30ft side garage • Rear Garden

WILLENHALL

- Ground floor flat in popular location Over 55 s
- Lounge, Kitchen One bedroom Bathroom • Double glaz, storage heating • No Chain • Energy E £49,950 for 70% shared ownership

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JRBAN LI





Jessie Road, Aldridge

- ious reception room 1 Spacious receptionFitted Kltchen/Diner

- Family Bathroom and downstairs WC
 Gas central heating and Double glazing
 Driveway and enclosed rear garden



- A superb 3 bed semi detached proper
- A modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasent upstairs family bathroom
 Gas central heating and Double glazing
 Fully enclosed rear garden, Sorry No Dss



Victoria Street

- wans

 Modern fitted kitchen with cooker

 Pleasent downstairs family bathroom
 Gas central heating and Double glazing
 Rear garden, Dss accepted

£675 pcm



- A modern 2bed end terrace property
 1 Spacious reception room wit
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- asent upstairs family bathroom
- Gas central heating and Double glazing

Delves Crescent

A splendid 3 bed semi detached

£565 pcm



- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace prope 2 spacious reception rooms
 Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
 Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
 DSS accepted

£550 pcm

2 Spacious reception rooms
 A good size modern fitted kitchen
 Newly installed downstairs family bathroom
 Gas central heating and Double glazing
 Enclosed rear garden and Dss accepted

West Street

£550pcm

NEW



- Spacious reception room
 Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
 Stylish upstairs family bathroom
 Gas central heating and Double glazing
 Porch entrance hallway and Dss



Ablewell Street

- A fully refurbished 1st floor apartment
- 1 Good sized reception room
 Modern fitted kitchen with cooker/hob
 Pleasent bathroom with white suite
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
 Town centre location, Sorry No Dss

Abbey Square, Bloxwich

A 3 bed mid terrace property
 I spacious reception room
 Fitted family kitchen/diner
 Upstairs bathroom with seperate WC
 Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
 DSS accepted, rent in arrears

£495 pcm

£400 pcm

A luxury 2 bed ground floor apartment Open planned lounge/kitchen Modern kitchen with integral appliances

Designer bathroom and en-suite Double Glazing throughout

Mellish Park



1 spacious through lounge Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Upstairs family bathroom Utility, Guest WC and integral garage Enclosed rear garden and driveway £475 pcm £475 pcm



Dora Street

£425 pcm

Shortlands Lane

Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
 Enclosed rear garden and driveway

A traditional 3 bed semi detach

Spacious living room
 Good size modern kitchen / diner
 Pleasant upstairs family bathroom

Bradford Street,

- Gas central heating and Double glazing
 Town centre location
- fireplace

 Modern fitted kitchen with cooker

 Pleasent family bathroom

 Double glazing throughout

 Un-allocated parking, Dss accepted



Chesterton Road A traditional 3bed semi detached
 1 spacious reception roon
 Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooke

Pleasent upstairs family bathroom
Gas central heating and Double glazing
Fully enclosed rear garden and Dss

Ladypool close

£400 pcm

£550 pcm



Honeybourne Way,

bb A pleasent upstairs family bathroom Gas central heating and Double glazing Fully enclosed rear garden & Parking

Laburnham House

- ne bed ground floor apartment ood sized reception room odern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom with show
 Gas central heating and do
 Neutral decor throughout entral heating and double glazing



- A modern ground floor 1 bed apa Open planned lounge and kitche Modern kitchen with appliances Pleasant family bathroom with si
- Allocated parking space

Queen Mary Street,

superb 2bed mid terrace

Rear garden and dss accepted

£400 pcm

£300 pcm

- - Rathroom with shower over bath
- Gas central heating and Double glazing Neutral decor and laminate flooring

- A Speciacum Annual Aspacious lounge/bedroom area Brand new fitted kitchen with cooker A pleasent modern bathroom with showe Gas central heating and Double glazing Town centre location



Stafford Street

- A 1 bed refurbished apartment
 A spacious loung area
 Fully fitted ktichen with cooker and fridge
 A pleasent bathroom with shower over bath
 Electric heating and Double glazing
 Dss Accepted, located in willenhall towr



Ablewell Street

Finda Property.com

- A pleasant 1 bed apartment Spacious lounge/diner Fitted kitchen with electric cook Pleasant family bathroom Secure key code entrance



- 1 bedroom ground floor apartment
 One spacious living room
 Modern fitted kitchen
 Family bathroom with white suite
 Gas central heating throughout
 Town centre location

- A re-furbished studio apartment Open planned kitchen and living area Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Good size bathroom with shower cubicle Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS secents





- Brand new 2bed 2nd floor apartment 1 Spacious reception room Fully fitted modern kitchen with cooker A good size pleasent bathroom Gas central heating and upvc double





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£700,000

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£450,000

A substantial six bedroom detached house with high grade bespoke finish. Further benefitting from a detached barn to the rear.

Bell Street, Wednesbury



£350,000

A seven bedroom luxury detached property on a sought after development benefitting from four bathrooms and three reception rooms.

Lochalsh Grove, Willenhall



£210,000

"Show home style" four bedroom detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location on the popular "Coppice Farm" development.

Rowan Drive Essington



Offers Over £200,000

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Greenhill Close Willenhall



A showhome style three bedroom detached house situated in a cul-de-sac location close to Pool Hayes

Longwood Rise, Willenhall



£167.500

'Showhome Style" three bedroom detached home benefitting from detached garage and the addition of

Baynton Road, Willenhall



£120,000

An extended three/four bedroom semi detached property benefitting from an annexe with wet room. Viewing is essential.

Barmouth Close, Willenhall



Three bedroom semi detached home situated in a popular location with detached garage to the rear.

Gurnard Close, Willenhall



£100,000

Two bedroom end terrace property on the extremely sought after "Coppice Farm" development and in a highly regarded cul-de-sac location.

Wolverson Close, Willenhall



Two/three bedroom end terrace home facing the ever popular "Stroud Avenue". Presented in good order and benefitting from driveway parking

Keysmith Close, Willenhall



Two bedroom apartment situated with good access to Jct. 10 M6 and Willenhall Town Centre. Presented in good order and in a cul-de-sac location.

Lime Avenue, Walsall



£80.000

A mid terrace property benefitting from central heating, where specified and garden. An ideal first time purchase. Viewing is recommended.

Victoria Street, Willenhall



Offers Over £70,000

A well presented two bedroom terraced house on a popular street close to Willenhall Town Centre. Offered with no chain.

Grenville Close, Walsall



£50,000

One bedroom ground floor maisonette with garage and garden. In need of modernisation would be an excellent buy to let or refurbishment project.

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Motoring



State of the art - the sharply styled new Citroen C4 Picasso which has a larger boot, two large colour displays and lower emissions

o set for free road tax

first details of the new C4 Picasso, highlighting its larger boot, lower emissions and two large colour displays.

displays.

The sharply styled model, which Citroen claims is the first compact MPV to offer the possibility to dip below the 100g/km threshold for free road tax, uses a new modular platform.

That has enabled up to 140kg to be saved and interior space to be increased thanks to a front overhang that has been shortened by 70mm.

A range of engines at the car's launch will include new Euro 6-

compliant diesels with power outputs from 89bhp to 148bhp. Manual and automated manual

gearboxes will also be available, with a traditional automatic trans-

with a traditional automatic trans-mission pencilled in for early 2014. The highlights of the new engine line-up include the entry-level 89bhp-HDi with 74mpg and just 98g/km of CO2, making it very cost-officities.

sogkin in CO2, maning it very costeffective.

Arguably even better is the
148bhp BlueHDi diesel, which only
emits 110g/km of carbon dioxide.

More details and prices will
follow from the Citroen headquartors, in the computer words, with the ters in the coming weeks, with the first deliveries of the new C4 Picasso models expected to arrive in the autumn. in the autumn.



How the old Citroen C4 Picasso looked

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£1000

£1610

£1360

£2010

£1810

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Model shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Alto range officialized consumption figures in mpg (J1300km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 54.3 (5.2) to 57.4 (3.0) finding customer 57.4 (3.0) finding customer 57.4 (3.0) finding customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 ArT available at £8,655 including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 ArT available at £8,655 including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 ArT available at £8,655 including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 ArT available at £8,655 including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 ArT available at £8,655 including participants (such Dealer Offersaylet to Available) for vertices invited registered between 1st April 2013 and 30th June 2013 from participants (Authorised Suzukl bealers only, Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offe. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.



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WALSALL COUNCIL LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Premises: 3 Wolverhampton Road, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2EY

Road, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2EY Notice is hereby given that Asif Mehmood has applied to Walsall Council as the Licensing Authority for a premises licence under s.17 of the Licensing Act 2003. Licensable Activities Late night refreshment: Monday to Sunday 25:00-03:00 Opening hours: Monday to Sunday 16:30-03:00 Sunday 16:30-03:00 make representations regarding this writing to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, was a constant of the Council Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 TP. Representations must be received no later than 9th May received no later than 9th Ma Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP. Representations must be received no later than 9th May

2013. The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the standard of the Lies and Research 188 of the Liesmann Act 2003, knowingly or recidessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5,000).

WALSALL COUNCIL LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Premises: Slices, 180 High Street Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 3LA Notice is hereby given that Saohail Azeem has applied to Walsall Council as the Licensing

Authority for a premises licence under s.17 of the Licensing Act 2003. Licensable Activities

Late night refreshment Monday to Sunday 23:00-03:00

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday 16:30-03:00

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 17P Representations must be received no later than 9th May 2013.

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ations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

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13/0430/FL

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Walsain Council FOR: Variation of Condition 1a of planning permission 11/1118/FL relating to the temporary position of Walsail Market and to extend the period at the current location for a further 2 years until April 2015 AT: THE BRIDGE, PARK STREET, DIGBETH, BRADFORD STREET AND LOWER HALL LADE, WALSAID.

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DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No:

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(F1 50 per photo sept)

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ROBERT 72, young looking, retired carpenter, N/S, non drinker, seeks kind, black lady in Wolverhampton area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631 🗒

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks temale. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631 ₿

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585 €

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273

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BRIAN 60's, ordinary man strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189

60'S male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male reeds male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307

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MALE 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871

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PATRICK 60's, single, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053

MALE 47, 5ft 9ins, brown MALE 47, 5ft 9lins, brown hair/eyes, slim-medium build, likes nights out, GSOH, seeks special female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 302861

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157 🗎 節

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SPORT

Yates try ends the campaign on a high

Stourport 6 Aldridge 24
ALDRIDGE rounded off
their Midlands Five West
(North) rugby union programme with a hard-fought
victory.
They opted for a territorial game based on fly-half
Kenny Carter's line kicking
which began to pay dividends as the weather deteriorated.

dends as the weather deteriorated.

Two Alex Yates penalties settled things down and the margin was extended with a typical individual effort from Carter, who received ashort pass from the base of a scrum and bludgeoned his way through the defense to way through the defence to

way through the defence to touch down.
Yates and Stourport's scrum-half Luke Johnson exchanged a penalty apiece as the home side came more into the game.
They then had a defensive blunder in their dead ball area by failing to deal with a speculative kick ahead which was pounced on by Aldridge scrum-half Mike Fullard. A second Johnson penalty redressed some of the balance just before the break.

he break.

As conditions worsened, both sides struggled for ascendancy. The home side had a good spell of pressure, but it was Aldridge who were the more efficient and creating most chances.

It wasn't until the dying minutes that a score finally materialised with winger Yates finishing off some slick inter-passing to squeeze into the corner.

Cain's able to clinch it

Wolverhampton Sporting 2 Willenhall Town 1

Willenhall Town 1
THE Lockmen suffered a
second West Midlands
Premier defeat in two days
against Wolverhampton
Sporting Community in a
game low on chances.

game low on chances.
Yet it was Willenhall who
struck the first blow.
A slow start was livened
up by the visitors when a
free-kick into the box saw
Tom Clews loop a header
home on 12 minutes.
The borne side was level

The home side were level on 52 minutes when a ball across the box wasn't dealt with and James McNaught

with and James McNaught fired home.

Sports won it on 80 minutes when a corner was played into the box and former Willenhall player Adam Cain was on hand to turn the ball home from close range.



Firm bridges sponsorship Gap

ESSINGTON Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club celebrated its first anniversary this week kitted out in new ring gear and equipment.

Recruitment firm Gap Personnel, which has a branch on Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, has put in £3,000 to provide Essington fighters and coaches with shorts, T-shirts and ring jackets as well as match gloves, headguards and other equipment.

The club was officially opened a year ago by Wolverhampton's Richie Carter, a national amateur champion in the 1987 junior ABA competition and ex-

professional. His brother David is a professional. His brother David is a coach along with John Birch and they regularly attract 40 to 50 people to training sessions at the Essington Community Centre on Hobnock Road. Essington schoolboy Frankie Fallows came within a fight of bringing home a first competitive title, the ABA Schoolboys Midlands crown, to the club at the end of January.

club at the end of January.

And coach Birch is pleased he can keep his focus on boxing through Gap's sponsorship. He said: "The kit and

our members.

"The sponsorship deal has made our life a lot easier as we look to put the club on a solid financial footing.

"We can't thank the good folk at Gap enough."

James Martin, of Gap Personnel's Midlands region, said: "We are proud to be supporting a club like Essington Golden Gloves.

"The club is also encouraging people in Essington to socialise and make new friends, which is incredibly important"

Away day success is a boost to title hopes

Bromsgrove Sporting 0 Walsall Wood 4 WOOD boosted their Mid-land Combination title challenge with a comfortable

The match was virtually

victory.

The match was virtually over as a contest in the 14th minute, when the home side's Aaron Roberts was sent off for handling Danny Owen's rising drive.

Keeper Tom Savage mad a double save, first from Michael Murray's spot-kick, then from Ahmet Bligimer's follow-up – but Murray made amends by firing home the rebound.

Five minutes later Lewis Taylor Boyce popped up on the right of the box, cleverly made space and scored with a fierce deflected effort to put Wood two-up.

On 33 minutes, Andre Gonzales set up Danny Forrest for a rising shot that found the net.

Sporting kept Wood out until the 89th minute when Gonzales played a free-kick square to Craig Deakin and he fired home from 30 yards.

Villa hit by last-ditch heartbreak

Brocton 1 Pelsall Villa 0 FINE goalkeeping by Pel-sall's Andy Hughes could not prevent a Midland Com-

not prevent a Midland Combination defeat.
The only goal came in the dying seconds as Sam Bell headed a corner back across the box and Mick Fox bundled home.
As early as the eighth minute, Dave Berks slid in Gary Fife whose shot drifted wide of the post.
Pelsall went close when a dangerous cross was swung

dangerous cross was swung in and headed out via his own bar by Jamie Evans. As the clock wound down,

As the clock would down, Brocton pressed while Pelsall continued to look sharp on the counter-attack. But then came the heartbreak.

Lions roar on unbeaten run

Wednesfield U13 1 Legion Lions U13 4 JOSH TOYE was the star as two unbeaten Walsall Lea-gue Division One sides met.

gue Division One sides met.

It ended in Lions winning
4-1. All goals were scored by
Toye, but there was plenty of
determination and team
spirit through the side.

Saddlers make point as the dream remains

Scunthorpe 1 Walsall 1

IN APRIL, for the last two seasons at least, Walsall have been left wondering what division they would be in.

would be in.

This year the question remains, but none expected one of the answers to be the Championship, writes Nick Mashiter.

And after Saturday's draw with Scunthorpe the fairytale still remains – just. Two points dropped, but one gained on the top six with just two games remaining.

The Saddlers are so near after coming so far. Their 1-0 win at Scunthorpe 13 months ago was a giant leap to safety and this year's disappointment – after Niall Canavan's late leveller – simply highlights their progress.

The frustration of another missed oppor-

The frustration of another missed oppor-tunity was palpable and justifiably so after Swindon and Tranmere both lost.

Watershed

Victory would have put them in the top six and with the momentum, but a draw leaves a bitter taste. One result, five draws from the last six games — and indeed the 13 winless games earlier — on their own do not kill the season. It is the whole campaign.

If the season. It is the whole campaign.
If the Saddlers finish 16 games unbeaten
and still don't make the play-offs they will
doff their cap to those who do and admit,
this time, they weren't good enough.
The goal has gone from avoiding relegation to making the play-offs in just four
short months and that cannot be over-

Wherever the Saddlers finish, it must go down as a watershed season which heralds a new era. The club's direction has changed thanks to manager Dean Smith's persist-ence, the club's faith and the players'

ence, the club's faith and the players' progress.
Keeping the core of the squad has also been a major move and the club has one more key deal to complete.
Will Grigg's 20th goal of the season will inevitably draw more unwanted interest



Will Grigg puts away his goal past keeper Eirik Holmen Johansen

from other clubs with the striker in pro-tracted talks with the Saddlers. Not since Jorge Leitao in 2000-01 has a Saddlers player hit that magical 20-goal mark. After just four last season and four the year before that, the 21-year-old typifies Walsall's new heepinning.

beginning.
But the Northern Ireland international But the Northern Ireland international was rarely afforded a chance in a limp first half in which the Saddlers struggled. Fourth-from-bottom Scunthorpe began brightly as Jimmy Ryan forced Sam John-stone into a smart save after just 10 seconds. Mark Duffy fired over as Walsall lacked

cohesion and without the injured Andy Butler – sidelined with a fractured toe – invited pressure at the back. Replacement Dean Holden, in for his first start since December, grew into the game but the Saddlers were rocky as Scunthorpe dictated. Sam Mantom and Febian Brandy went does as Welsell beau to thready went close as Walsall began to threaten.

went close as Walsall began to threaten.
Johnstone blocked Paul Reid's far-post
header and rushed out to force Matthew
Godden to shoot over just before the break.
But the tide turned in the second half as
Walsall upped the tempo and took the lead
nine minutes in. Jamie Paterson and Craig

Westcarr swapped passes for the latter to cross to Grigg to slam in his goal. From there the Saddlers were comfortable, but - crucially -failed to extend their lead, before disaster stuck just two minutes from time.

Mike Grella, who had wasted two decent paperings wriggled to the byadjine and

Febian Brandy goes round Wolves loanee Anthony Forde

Mike Grella, who had wasted two decent openings, wriggled to the bye-line and crossed for Canavan to plant an eight-yard header into the corner. There was still time for Grella to fire into the side netting before Brandy worked space in the area, only to shoot straight at Eirik Holmen Johansen. It could have been better but after the last four years in the shadows, it already is.

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Pics are looking good for play-offs

Rushall Oympic 2 AFC Fylde 0 RUSHALL took a huge stride towards an Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-off spot while The Coasters will be looking for revenge when the two sides meet again at the end of the month. The hosts almost took the

The hosts almost took the lead on 26 minutes, when full-back Kyle Haynes connected sweetly with a stunning 25-yard drive that whistled just past the post. Rushall scored just before half-time when Dave Walker combined with Haynes, then fed Ahmed Obeng who flashed a first-time effort, from a tight angle, into the far corner for his 50th goal in Pics' colours.

Fylde's best chance came when Mitchell Tolley had to clear Michael Barnes' shot off the line and the next attack saw the visitors' skipper Brad Barnes head over from close range.

skipper Brad Barnes head over from close range. But Rushall immediately broke and Obeng slipped the ball to the unmarked Lindon Dovey who finished superbly for his debut goal to wrap up the crucial three points.

Darts lesson for Dennant

BLOXWICH darter Matthew Dennant was given an education by Kim Huybrechts in the second event of the weekend's PDC's UK Open qualifiers at Wigan's Robin Park Centre.

The Youth Tour regular's step up to the seniors continued. But it opened in defeat on Saturday for the 21-year-

on Saturday for the 21-year-old, Sean Ryan winning 6-3 in the first round.

Dennant returned for Sunday's second tourna-ment, beating Daniel Day 6-3. But Huybrechts then beat the youngster 6-1 before going on to lose in the last leg of the final to Michael van Gerwen.

Winning run is stretched

AFC Wulfs 5 Sporting Khalsa 0 KHALSA shipped five goals as Wulfs extended their winning streak to 15 games in the West Midlands Premier.

the West Midlands Premier.
Wulfs attacked from the
off, and Kyle Brady had two efforts on goal after eight minutes.

minutes.

Brady eventually opened the scoring and there were goals for Liam Wilkinson, Richard Palmer, Tom Piggott and Jack Marsh.



Walsall's Harvey Wootton on the charge

Barkers show bite in surprise win

Walsall 25 Barkers Butts 31
BARKERS BUTTS, needing a win to have any chance of beating the drop from Midlands One West, stunned the home side with a winning second-half revival.

But it was a deserved win by a team that played with far more passion and determination than their opponents.

The hosts must have been having thoughts of another easy win as they established a 20-0 half-time lead. An early attack insied a 20-0 internile ideal. Air early attacks saw Walsall go deep into Butts territory, then a quickly taken line-out by Steve Halbert enabled fly-half Matty Wood to make a neat switch with Richard Towe. The Walsall

centre cut back and ran in from 15 metres. Wood converted and 10 minutes later secured a good line-out position with a fine kick. The throw was gathered by Max Hughes and a strong drive by the Walsall pack resulted in No. 8 Rod Dickson getting the touchdown. Late in the half a superb 50-metre run by man of the match Chris Mould, saw him deliver the try-scoring pass to replacement Jack Crowhurst.

replacement Jack Crowhurst.

The final action before the interval saw captain Steve Halbert make a 30m run which eventually led to a penalty knocked

over by Wood. The second half proved to be a nightmare for the hosts, as their already depleted squad lost scrum half Liam Lloyd and the team began to lose momentum.

The visitors ran the ball at every opportunity and scored four converted tries and kicked a penalty.

kicked a penalty.
With six minutes left Walsall produced one
of their few sustained attacks of the half, as
captain Halbert lead the charge. Well-timed
passes put winger Naylor over in the corner
with six minutes left.
The thirds lost 24-7 at Shrewsbury. In the

juniors, the under-15s beat Moseley 28-25 and he under-13s beat Moseley 54-7.

Keane to be in the frame for title shot

WALSALL'S Christopher Keane has moved a step closer in breaking through to English title reckoning after being named as the next contender to the belt. The British Boxing Board of Control has ordered that.

next contender to the belt.

The British Boxing Board of Control has ordered that Keane meet the winner of Saturday night's title tussle between champion China Clarke and Matthew Askin, urites Craig Birch.

The Midlands cruiser-weight champion himself boxes a six-rounder at the Institute in Birmingham tomorrow, against an as yet unnamed opponent.

And the 27-year-old has also been playing his part in getting Nathan Cleverly ready for Saturday's defence of the WBO world light heavyweight title at Wembley Arena.

Paces

The Welshman defends

Wembley Årena.

Paces

The Welshman defends his crown for a fifth time against Germany's Robin Krasniqi, live on BoxNation.

Keane travelled to South Wales to put the champion through his paces in sparring and both got vital rounds under their belts.

Keane's Institute appearance is regarded as a 'keep busy' bout, with the board decreeing he will box for the English title by the end of July. If the chance arises, he will get the chance to mirror the 2009 ABA super heavyweight national title he won as for Pleck ABC.

The 'New Blood' bill also features Smethwick-base debutant Disney Huni, Aston's Chris Truman, Coventry's Mike O'Hagan and Tamworth's Matt Swaright. For tickets call 0845 467 3930 or 07888 870 650 or visit www.ticket master.co.uk

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, April 18, 2013.

UIET MAN GETH L MAKE A NOISE

BRITISH lightweight champion Martin Gethin is one step away from a world title bid after securing a final eliminator for the IBF belt.

The Walsall man will meet Panamanian Ameth Diaz in his Black Country stronghold on May 31 knowing victory should put him in the mandatory slot for a showdown with champion Miguel Vazquez.

The pair will meet at Walsall Town Hall, where Gethin won the British title by beating Ben Murphy in January.

"This is a massive opportunity for me," the 29 year-old said.
"I won the British title in

January and now I'm one step away from a shot at the IBF crown.

"It's a dream come true.

"It's a dream come true.
"I'd like to thank Frank
Warren for all his hard work
in getting me this fight in my
hometown and my manager
and trainer, Errol Johnson,
for all his support.
Gethin added: "I won't let
anybody down.".
"He's coming into my
backyard and I'll show him
what I'm all about.
"The Quiet Man is going

"The Quiet Man is going to silence the world." Boasts

Boasts
Diaz – whose record reads
33 wins and 11 defeats, with
22 of his victories by stoppage – had been slated to
take on Marvin Quintero.
But the latter pulled out
injured, handing Gethin his
opportunity just three
months after winning the
British crown against
Hove's Murphy.
The Walsall man boasts 24
victories and just three

victories and just three defeats from his 27 visits to

the professional ring. Eleven of his wins have

Eleven of his wins have come through stoppages. Champion Vazquez had been due to meet Scotland's WBO champion Ricky Burns in a unification bout until the fight fell through.

Boxing

Rookies can handle heat, says Smith

BOSS Dean Smith has insisted his Walsall rookies can handle the play-off heat as they look to take the promotion rook to the wire.

as they look to take the promotion race to the wire.

The Saddlers chief reckons his men can cope with the new pressure of expectation in the League One play-off race.

It's new territory for most of the new days to Swith

of the squad ,but Smith declared: "They're coping with it really well.

with it really well.

"They were sat in the dressing room at Scunthorpe on Saturday (a 1-1 draw) disappointed just like they were after the Sheffield United game.

"We've certainly got momentum, 14 games unbeaten, and I don't think we look like we're going to get beaten.

get beaten.

get beaten.

"Who knows, the defeats during the winless run might cost us, the defeats at the start to the season, but we go out to try to win every game and we won't change that policy."

Delight for uni as GB team welcome Dutch

WALSALL is to stage a five-match international wheelchair basketball series.
Great Britain's women's

team take on the Nether-lands, London 2012 Paralympic bronze medalists, over three days starting

The matches are being staged at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus on Gorway Road and admission is free.

and admission is free.
Great Britain, backed by
Standard Life, finished
seventh at London and will
be looking to avenge a
defeat in their opening
game there when they
were thrashed 62-35 by
the Netherlands.
This will be the first international wheelchair basketball tournament in
Britain since the Paralymjos. It also launches Great

pics. It also launches Great Britain's international season in preparation for this year's European

season in preparation for this year's European Championships in July. GB player Helen Turner said: "It will be a good test for the team and allow us to see where we are in terms of competition since the London Paralympics."

the London Paralympics."
Mike Chamberlain,
director of sport at the University of Wolverhampton,
said: "We are absolutely delighted to be hosting this
tournament."
Matches take place
tonight at 6.30pm and
tomorrow and Saturday at
both at 10.30am and 8pm.



Great Britain star Helen Turner, right, in action for her team against Germany

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